OSWESTRY & BORDER
CHRONICLE

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Llanymynech girl becomes company's face of 2012
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Children fill church with glorious festive music
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SOLDIER'S INSTINCT IS BLAST LIFE-SAVER

by Graham Breeze

A MILITARY dog handler from Welshpool has played a major role in saving 'numerous lives' on the deadly Afghanistan frontline by discovering a planted bomb.

Lance Corporal Darren Evans sent his Belgian shepherd Oslo in for one last sniff on a gut-feeling after an Army robot failed to spot the danger.

Lance Corporal Evans, 28, and his dog were called out when an Afghan National Army patrol reported seeing a piece of wire sticking out of the ground.

A robot had been sent along the track, but had found nothing leading the team to almost turn back to base. But Darren sent Oslo down the narrow track just to be on safe side, and the canine sniffed out the deadly 20kg improvised explosive device (IED) in northern Helmand.

"It must have only taken a minute, maybe two, for him to find it, mark it and come back when I called him, but it felt a lot longer" said Darren.

Oslo, a Belgian shepherd, is of the same litter as Obama, whose handler Sgt Kaye Wilson was made an MBE for their work earlier this year clearing a previously un-passable 4km stretch of road of IEDs.

"Part of you is hoping there is nothing there because it makes it safer for everybody, and they don't have to try and deal with the device, but at the same time you are also really proud of him when he finds something," Darren said.

Charge

On this occasion Oslo had found a low metal content pressure plate – designed to miss detection by the Army's metal detectors – which was connected to a 20kg explosive charge.

On average, a 5kg device is enough to cause amputation and possibly death to a soldier on a foot patrol.

The Ministry of Defence web site states that 'a bomb of this size could have maimed and killed numerous soldiers, or potentially damaged a vehicle full of soldiers'.

"It does make you feel like you have made a difference when you find a device.

"If Oslo hadn't found it then someone could have stepped on it, so I was very proud of him, and he was happy to get his toy – which is his reward. It's all he wants!"

Despite their clear bond however, Darren who serves with 102 Squadron, 1 Military Working Dog Regiment, based in Germany is conscious that when he leaves Afghanistan in three months, Oslo will remain to continue searching.

Quick-thinking Lance Corporal Darren Evans with Belgian shepherd dog Oslo

Curfew for farmer who stole undies

by Anwen Evans

A FARMER who stole 860 pairs of ladies' knickers from washing lines in Mid Wales has an 'underlying psychiatric disorder', a court has heard.

Geoffrey Robert Wilde, from Llanfechain, near Oswestry, admitted to police that he would sometimes wear the stolen underwear and had been wearing a blue pair at the time of a police interview, Welshpool Magistrates Court was told on Tuesday.

The 48-year-old admitted 18 charges of theft and he was given a three-year-community order consisting of a 36-month supervision requirement, attendance on a community sex offenders programme, and a six-month daily curfew between 6pm and 6am.

He was also ordered to pay costs of £85 costs.

Problem

Wilde admitted in interview that he had a problem, said he needed help and shouldn't have been doing what he was doing.

Mr Paul Inns, defending, said his client was remorseful and ashamed.

"He is well thought of in his community."

"It is however clear from the psychiatric report that there is an underlying psychiatric disorder and other issues that need addressing.

Sentencing Mr David Peate, chairman of magistrates, described the case as 'serious' and said something would need to be done to address Wilde's behaviour.

Residents urged to hang out the lights

HOUSEHOLDERS are being urged to hang out their Christmas lights and take part in Oswestry Town Council's annual festive competition.

In recent years the council has held an annual Oswestry in Lights Competition as part of its contribution to the Oswestry in Bloom entry.

Councillor Betty Gull, chairman of Oswestry in Bloom, said festival lights were as important as the beautiful floral displays that graced the town each summer.

Instead of touring colourful gardens for the Oswestry in Bloom competition town councillors and members of the in-bloom committee will be touring homes looking at those adorned with Christmas lights.

Judging will take place next week and the winner of the competition will receive a £50 voucher donated by Oswestry store, Colour Supplies.

People have time to contact the town council and ask the judges to visit their home as part of their tour of the town.

Houses not entered into the competition can also be taken into consideration but to ensure a home is judged ring Louise Humphreys at Oswestry Town Council on (01691) 680222 by the end of this week.

Warning on floods risk

PARTS OF Shropshire and Mid Wales are on flood alert as weather experts warned the county was set to be hit by a second major storm this week.

Water levels were reaching peak levels and flood warnings were issued on the River Severn.

There are forecasts the country could be battered by a major storm at the end of the week, with fierce winds and driving gales.

It's toggle post

WELSHPOOL scouts are running a Christmas post. The 1st Clive's Own Welshpool Scout Group will run the service until December 20 via post boxes around the town with retailers where special stamps are available.

Cuts may put back better rail services

THE WELSH Government's promise to introduce hourly train services for Welshpool could be delayed by up to three years, it has been revealed.

An hourly train service was announced by the Government for the Shrewsbury-Aberystwyth line for 2011, but it has now been put on the backburner following the latest round of transport cuts.

The news will frustrate rail travellers as the current two-hourly service makes it difficult for making Shrewsbury connections into Mid Wales.

It was hoped that the hourly service would cut peak time road traffic and also attract more tourists into the area.

But a spokesperson confirmed that while the Welsh Government had already invested £8m in infrastructure for extra trains between Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury, the hourly introduction had been delayed.

Montgomeryshire AM Russell George said that he will continue to push for the early implementation of the hourly service, after originally lobbying Ministers for it back in June.

House raids across town

POLICE RAIDED homes in Oswestry as part of a county-wide strike against law breakers on Monday.

Ten arrests were made as part of Operation Crackdown which targeted suspected burglars, drug dealers and others involved in crime.

The pre-Christmas strike was the latest in a series of carefully planned police swoops aimed at arresting offenders and disrupting criminal activity. Police carried out early morning raids and forced doors at several homes to gain entry.

Your tree pictures

AS the big day approaches we would really love to see pictures of your own family Christmas tree. So why not email your photos to us so we can share your images with all our readers? Our contact details are on Page 2.

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Funeral date for tragic Dale

A FUNERAL service takes place at Shrewsbury Crematorium at 11.20am on Wednesday for former Welshpool man Dale McNamee who died in a hit-and-run road incident on November 26.

Mourners are being asked not to wear black ties but to choose something orange – the father of three's favourite colour.

"Dale was passionate about the colour orange," said the 36-year-old's father Clive McNamee.

"We are all still trying to come to terms with Dale's death and are grateful for all the messages of support we have received."

Police have stressed that their investigation into the death is still very much ongoing. Mr McNamee, who lived at The Red Castle, Harmer Hill, Shrewsbury, died after being struck by a vehicle on the A458 between Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth.

Detective Inspector Sarah Wagstaffe, one of the investigating team, said: "This is a major inquiry and we remain determined in our efforts to trace the driver involved."

Dale McNamee

Jail term suspended

PUNCHING A friend and breaking his jaw landed and Oswestry man with a suspended jail sentence at Shrewsbury Crown Court on Tuesday.

Liam Davies, 20, from Langland Road, was given a 34-week jail sentence, suspended for two years by Judge Robin Onions.

He was also given a 12 month supervision order and 200 hours unpaid work, while he was also ordered to pay £1,000 compensation and £750 costs.

He had admitted a charge of causing grievous bodily harm at an earlier hearing.

Davies delivered an unprovoked punch to Louis Winterton's jaw on February 27 outside the Bullring Pub in Oswestry causing him to have a fractured jaw which required surgery and metal screws and a plate added.

Miss Debra White, for Davies, said her client had been providing emotional support to his mother following a recent bereavement and he was a hard working man.

Judge Robin Onions told Davies: "You need to meet up as a group of friends and put this behind you now."

Knifeman is jailed for stab threats

A knife-wielding man has been jailed for 10 months after threatening a man sleeping in his ex-girlfriend's house.

Justin Owens, 29, of Box Lane, West Felton, near Oswestry, was sentenced to eight months in jail for affray and two months for assault at Shrewsbury Crown Court on Tuesday. He admitted the charges.

The court heard Owens' ex-partner Nicola Royce had been out in Wrexham with friends and returned home to West Felton with a group of people, including Conner Penrose and Thomas Clowes on October 8.

Mr Penrose fell asleep in an upstairs bedroom, when Mr Clowes and Owens burst in, waking him some time after 3am.

Mr Penrose could see Mr Clowes was upset and Owens started telling the men he was going to stab them. Owens then punched Mr Clowes and Mr Penrose ran away, with Owens kicking him in the back.

Mr Robert James Edwards, prosecuting, said Owens kicked Mr Clowes in the back as he went downstairs.

"Owens then left the house with the knife still in his hand," Mr Edwards said.

Wind power map to be used as evidence

A 44-PAGE document handed over to the Welsh Assembly in an attempt to prevent hundreds of pylons being built across Shropshire and Mid Wales has been accepted as evidence for a windfarm inquiry.

by Graham Breeze

The Welsh Assembly said the document entitled "Mapping Montgomeryshire" would be accepted as witness evidence into the review of its windfarm policy.

The Montgomeryshire Against Pylons campaign group said a document detailing the full impact of the 'green energy' plans for Shropshire and Mid Wales would also be sent out to households.

Jonathan Wilkinson, chairman of the group, said the document highlighted the impact of the proposed wind farms and pylon routes on the whole area.

He said: "The maps will bring to life the impact of thousands of massive lorries thundering through our towns and villages and clogging up our roads for years to come.

"It will show the intrusion of wind power stations and pylons on our flora and fauna, wildlife habitats, sites of special scientific interest, historical monuments, and local landmarks.

"The document analyses the cumulative effect of the 800 turbines on the area's road traffic, tourism and wildlife.

"It also details the probability of greatly increased flooding of the Vyrnwy and Severn valleys and the affect on the landscape."

Under the plans by National Grid, a sub-station could be built in either Abermule, near Newtown, or Cefn Coch, near Llanfair Caereinion, while hundreds of pylons could also be built across Shropshire and Mid Wales to link windfarms to the National Grid.

Bosses of National Grid have stressed no decision has yet been made.

Landscape architect Huw Morgan, who drew up the maps, said: "We would like the communities of Mid-Wales and the borders to take ownership of the local maps to create a database of knowledge about our communities and pride in our unique landscape."

Appeal for unwanted gifts

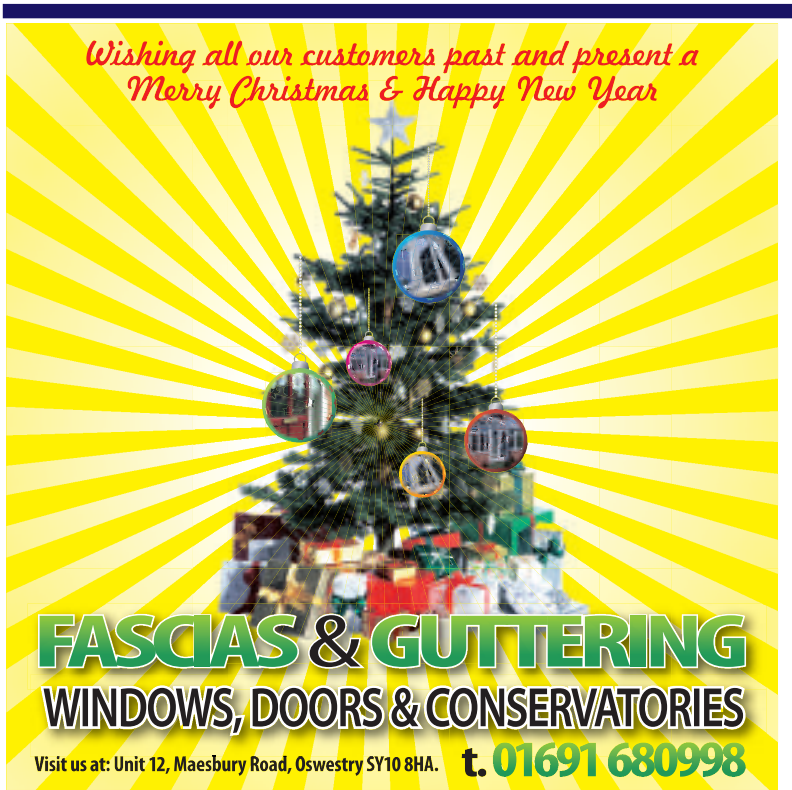
Staff and volunteers from the Barnardo's charity shop in Oswestry, are appealing for any unwanted gifts for their Christmas section. Putting some stock out was volunteer, Doreen Hands. *Picture: Peter Flemmich*

Bash tickets going fast

NEW YEAR'S Eve revellers in Welshpool need to move quickly to snap up tickets for functions at The Royal Oak Hotel and at the Westwood Park Hotel.

Local recording artist Dai Robs will be performing for dinner guests at the Royal Oak where a four-course menu is being prepared to see in the new year at a cost of £29-95. But places are going quickly and anyone interested should contact the hotel on (01938) 552217 to secure a table.

Welshpool band souljets will be performing at The Westwood alongside a DJ and revellers can enjoy a buffet with tickets on sale at £20. Call (01938) 553474.



Festive clampdown on fake IDs and underage drinking

A MAJOR clampdown on the use of fake IDs in Oswestry's pubs and off-licences this Christmas will be launched as part of a campaign to halt underage drinking.

Oswestry Community Alcohol Partnership has warned young people against using bogus IDs to obtain alcohol during the festive season.

And Trading Standards officers were at Walford and North Shropshire College on Friday to drive the message home. Supported by college staff, the council officers warned students about the implications of using fake ID and promoted the use of PASS accredited proof of age cards.

by Graham Breeze

Information was also available explaining how licensees are confiscating fake and false IDs with the full backing of a procedure operated by the police. Consequences of "proxy purchasing", where someone who is over 18 buys alcohol for someone who is under 18, were also spelt out.

Shropshire Councillor Steve Charmley said: "Os-CAP continues to bring a wide range of partners together to tackle the effects of under-age drinking in Oswestry.

"Highlighting the issue of fake IDs, together with the promotion of PASS accredited cards, is just one example of the work that the Os-CAP is currently undertaking to bring about a change in attitudes towards under-age drinking."

Effective

Frances Darling, chair of Os-CAP, said: "We recognise that passports and photo driving licences are appropriate forms of ID but we want to stress that PASS accredited proof of age cards, such as those offered by VALIDATE UK and Citizencard are also extremely effective methods of proving a young person's age.

"We have been working hard with retailers and particularly pubs to ensure they accept PASS cards but are aware that there may be some pockets of resistance.

"If young people experience resistance from licensees, we would strongly encourage them to report this to Trading Standards so we can provide further advice to the licensees concerned."

Gemma Lovering, of Walford & North Shropshire College, said: "I really want to encourage students not to take their passports and driving licences with them as proof of age ID.

"I totally support the schemes that operate PASS accredited cards and strongly encourage young people to apply for these and use them.

"It is worth remembering that PASS accredited cards are much cheaper than a passport and if lost don't compromise a person's security."

Plans for revamp of area on track

AMBITIOUS PLANS to create a sports, heritage and wildlife area in Trefonen should be completed by Christmas, it emerged this week.

Members of Trefonen Playing Fields Association and Shropshire Council have been working hard to transform a two-and-a-half acre site around the village hall into an area for the community.

And they hope a key landscaping phase of the project will be completed before Christmas.

They have announced that contractors Dale Landscapes were on site this week and work is scheduled to be completed by December 23.

Plans include creating a new access off Oswestry Road to provide spaces for 23 cars.

Aluminium gates will be installed in the entrance to the car park as well as a new stone footpath which will form part of a circular walkway.

The pit mound will be seeded with a mix of flowers to add colour in spring and 100 native trees will be planted. Six picnic benches will also be installed.

The improvement programme will also boast art in the form of two new sculptures. One will be the image of a miner and will be placed on the pit mound. The second is to be a miner tunnelling into the pit mound.

The project has received grants from a number of bodies including the Community Spaces Big Lottery.

Store helps out hospice

STAFF AT Morrisons store in Oswestry have been raising money for Hope House this week.

Staff stayed on after their shifts finished to help shoppers with their packing and collected donations in buckets. They will present the money at Hope House tomorrow, Friday.

NEWS in brief

Shoppers provide meals for 2,000 in food poverty

SHOPPERS AT Welshpool's Sainsbury's store have donated enough food during a festive promotion to provide 2,000 meals for people suffering food poverty in the UK.

And their contribution has been described as 'fantastic'.

Sainsbury's teamed up with charity partner FairShare to hold the first ever food donation drive at the town supermarket.

Sainsbury's Retail and Logistics Director, Roger Burnley said: "Customers at Welshpool made a fantastic contribution."

Rotary club's new leader is no stranger to the role

ROTARIAN John Ward was elected to succeed Mike Jones as president of the Rotary Club of Oswestry at its recent special general meeting.

He is no stranger to the role, having been the inaugural president of daughter club Oswestry Borderland. He has a farming and agricultural consulting background and will take up his duties in July.

Christmas story event is lined up for library group

THE CHRISTMAS spirit will be alive and kicking at Oswestry Library next week when its daytime book group meets.

The group will meet on Tuesday at 2pm in the library's meeting room when staff will be reading aloud festive stories, such as 'A Child's Christmas In Wales' by Dylan Thomas and 'The Gift of the Magic' by O.Henry.

Jamie-Lee named Face of 2012

'I was fed up with padded bras' says Jamie-Lee Williams

Confidence was 'given a boost by cosmetic surgery ...'

BEAUTY queen Jamie-Lee Williams has become the Face of 2012 for a national cosmetic surgery company.

Jamie-Lee, 25, from Llanymynech, has won a whole string of beauty pageants including her latest title, Miss Galaxy, which she won in America earlier this year.

But she admitted that her confidence had been boosted by the cosmetic surgery she had three years ago taking her chest size from a 32A to a 32D.

Extrovert

She said: "I have travelled the world taking part in many beauty pageants. I have always naturally been an extrovert, but was always self-conscious of my breasts.

"After having my procedure I felt I was able to go on and actually win my beauty pageants."

"I was fed up of having to wear 'chicken fillets' for swimwear rounds and padded bras," she said.

She was crowned the female winner of The Harley Medical Group's 'Find the Face of 2012' competition – launched for the first time ever on the social networking internet site Facebook – and will now star in the medical group's UK and Ireland wide campaign including television and print adverts.

17,000 go to leisure centre in a month

NEARLY 17,000 people visited Oswestry's £10million leisure centre during its first month, it has been revealed.

The figure is an increase of nearly 3,000 compared with the number of visits recorded during October last year at the town's old sports centre.

Council chiefs welcomed the 17 per cent rise and said it proved residents were already enjoying the benefits of the facility in Shrewsbury Road.

Councillor Steve Charmley said it was encouraging to hear numbers had risen and added it made the years of work planning the centre worthwhile. Planning for the project was started by the now defunct Oswestry Borough Council.

"It is good to see the new facilities being used," he said.

"It shows people accept it is a bonus to the town. I know there has been a big increase in gym membership as well as the swimming activities.

A spokesman for Shropshire Council said: "The state-of-the-art centre was opened on October 1 and has since proved extremely popular with local people."

Police find stolen safe

POLICE HAVE found a safe stolen in a burglarly at a pub earlier this month.

Thieves broke into the Hand Inn at Llanrhaedr Ym Mochnant in the early hours of December 5. Police believe three men were involved.

Dyfed Powys Police said a small safe, stolen in the burglary was found near Nantmawr on a back road from Penybont Llanerchemrys to Oswestry.

Anyone with any information about the incident or who may have witnessed anything suspicious is asked to contact the police at Welshpool Police Station on the non-emergency telephone number 101.

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2007 07 DODE CALIBER 2 0 CRD SPORT, IN BLACK, 40000 MILES £5750
2002 52 RENAULT MEGAN 1.6 16V DYNAMIQUE + CABRIOLET £3495
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2007 57 VW JETTA 20 TDI SPORT , AIR/CON ALLOYS 45000 MIES £8750
2003 VW GOLF GT TDI 6 SPEED,ACC,SUNROOF,17 INCH ALLOYS £5495
2002 VW GOLF EST 46000MILES SUNROOF,CD, ... £3250
2008 LANDROVER,DISCOVERY2.7 HSE IN BLACK 82000 MILES £19750
2009 59 MITSUBISHI L200 2 DR PICK UP 4 LIFE,WITH HARD TOP,A/C ..... £10250 +VAT
2005 55 CITREON PICASSO 1.6 HDI DESIRE 42000 MILES £4750
2007 07 FORD FOCUS CC 3 MRT BLUE, LEATHER, 37000 MILES £8750
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2004 54 FORD STREETKA LUXURY IN GREY 57000 AIR CON, ALLOYS £3995
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1999 V BMW Z3 1.8, SOFT TOP, PETROL, MANUAL, 91,000 MILES, ... £3995
2006 06 ASTRA SRI 2LTR, 200 BHP T, EXTERIOR PACK, 45,000 MILES, ... £7495
2007 56 MAZDA MX 5 20i IN BLACK, WITH BLACK LEATHER £6995
2004 04 VOLVO S40 1.9D, LEATER, MANUAL, A/C, 74,000 ..... £3995
2003 03 BMW X5 30 I, PETROL, IN BLACK LEATHER, AUTO £8495
2010 10 KIA RIO CRD 5DR IN SILVER 6500 MILES £7795
2007 07 SKODA 1.2 12V I 5DR FABIA IN SILVER, AIR/CON ALLOYS, ... £5995
2007 57 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI IN BLACK/ 45000 MILES £5995
2004 54 BMW X5 TD SPORT MET GREY, 68000 MILES,ACC, PAN ROOF £14750
2008 08 VAUXHALL ASTRAVAN 1.3 CDTI IN SILVER 54000 MILES ..... £4750 + VAT
2010 60 MINI FIRST, WITH TEC PK,9500 MILES IN RED, CD, ... £9495
2003 03 FREELANDER, 1.8 KALAHARI 5DR, AIR/CON, ALLOYS £3750
2006 06 PEUGEOT 307 HDI 1.6 S IN SILVER AIR/CON ALLOYS 59000 ..... £4950
2008 08 VOLVO V70 2,4 D SE BLUE BLACK LEATHER 36000 MILES £15750
2003 52 HONDA CIVIC CTDI, 5 DOOR, MANUAL, ... £3250
2007 57 AUDI A3 SE 2.0 TDI 170 BHP 5DR, 61,000 MILES IN RED £8995
2008 08 JEEP GRANDE CHEROKEE, 30 CRD LTD, 34,000 MILES, SAT NAV, REAR DVD, FULL LEATHER. £14,995
2008 08 DODGE NITRO DIESEL SXT, 23000 MILES, ... £10995
2001 Y BMW 525 SE AUTO, LEATHER, SILVER, ... £1995
2004 54 VW GOLF GTI FSI 3DR IN MET BLUE 65000 MILES £4750
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New leader needed for youth club to continue

by Graham Breeze

THE FOUNDER of a village youth club wants to step down from her post – but she fears the popular club will close if no-one takes over her role, leaving 35 young people with nothing to do.

Llanymynech has had problems with vandalism and anti-social behaviour and nine years ago villager Carol Jones set up the club to stop the nuisance.

She says the time has come where she feels she would now like to step down but she cannot find anyone to fill her shoes.

Dedicated – Carol Jones

Mrs Jones said she loves running the club and gets on well with the youngsters and would love to find someone with the same passion.

She said: "I could do with some volunteers and someone to take over from me. I don't want to step down and it have to end.

Trouble

"I have always liked young people and nine years ago I got chatting to the youths in the village at the time who were getting into trouble and causing havoc. I asked them why they did it and they said it was because there was nothing for them to do. So I decided to set up the group."

The club now has about 35 young members on the books and sees about 12 to 15 people arriving each week.

The sessions take place every Thursday evening and offers activities including IT, Wii games and a place to meet.

They also go on summer outings including trips to ten pin bowling, canoeing and climbing.

Mrs Jones said: "I feel at my age I am a bit long in the tooth doing this but I do love it and enjoy it.

"It is difficult finding someone else to take over but I don't want things in the village to go back to square one."

The club is supported by the Shropshire and Powys county youth services.

● See Women of Substance feature – Page 14

Christmas countdown

Some of the young artists from The Willow Gallery's after-school groups

THE WILLOW Gallery in Oswestry has a giant advent calendar on display. The windows have been individually designed by talented young artists from The Willow Gallery's Young Artists and After School Art groups. The Christmas window is another Malcolm Tullis creation and the advent calendar was created by John Smout. Pop into The Willow to see a window opened each day. Pictured with their windows were some pupils from the Marches School and other designers who were involved in its creation.

Picture: Peter Flemmich

Festive exhibition hosted by gallery

A FESTIVE exhibition is being held in an Oswestry gallery.

The Willow Gallery, in Willow Street, is hosting its Oswestry Christmas Fair Exhibition until January 2. The event started on Saturday and includes paintings, sculpture and photography.

A spokesperson said: "We are pleased to showcase new artwork by local and international artists including Diana Baur, Peter Cassay, Carol Dunbabin, Jim Heath, Shaun Hood, Jan Ibbotson, Alan Parker, Alex Perez, and Tereska Shepherd.

"All of the artwork is affordably priced."

There will also be a wide selection of hand-crafted gifts and cards in the shop.

Meeting will look at service changes

VOLUNTARY AND community groups are being called on to help shape Shropshire Council changes.

Oswestry Local Joint Committee is being held tomorrow, Friday, at the Eastern Oswestry Community Centre starting at 7pm.

Representatives from groups are being invited to hear about changes in council services driven by the Localism Act and the reform of public services.

The meeting is for people to share views on how they can get involved in shaping changes and bidding for contracts.

Councillor Martin Bennett, chairman of Oswestry LJC, said: "We are particularly inviting everyone involved in running a local charity or voluntary group to come along and find out more about what the move from delivering to commissioning services will mean, both for them and for local people."

To suggest groups that would like an invitation, or for advice about a grant, contact Kate Garner, on (01691) 677318 or at kate.garner@shropshire.gov.uk

New tipple for beer fans

BEER FANS are being urged to get along to Oswestry's Stonehouse Brewery to try out a completely new tipple.

The new beer, called simply Sunlander, is made from Australian hops and is available now.

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Pedal off the turkey by joining bike ride

WOULD-BE cyclists looking to shed a few pounds after Christmas are being offered the chance to take part in a 12-mile ride around Oswestry.

The ride is being organised by Vel-Os, a group of cycling enthusiasts from the Oswestry area, and is aimed at those who don't do much cycling but would like to do a bit.

The 'Turkey Sandwich Ride' will start at Oswestry Old Station at 10am on December 29.

"The ride is partly to gauge if there is a demand for such gentle rides on a regular basis in the New Year," said Tim Rutherford, one of the organisers.

The 'Turkey Sandwich Ride' will take riders on a gentle loop of the town through country lanes and more rides may be organised if there is enough interest from cyclists.

"This is a leisurely ride for all ages and all abilities and intends to be the start of a series of similar rides in the new year to help people cycle more or get back on their bikes," added Tim.

"Vel-Os is a hub where all the different forms of cyclists can find out about each other, to promote more utility cycling, and encourage more bikes to be used in and around the town generally.

"I hope the group will organise some cycling events and rides, and soon it will have a website."

Riders are being encouraged to take money along for a cake stop, but to avoid taking turkey sandwiches, and bike may be decorated.

Emma's trek to help animals

Emma Gerrard is preparing for a charity trek to Borneo to raise vital funds

A LLANSANTFFRAID veterinary nurse is off on a charity trek to Borneo to raise cash for International Aid for the Protection & Welfare of Animals.

Emma Gerrard of Cain Veterinary Centre wants to raise £2,500 and will be in a party of six to raise vital funds towards building a veterinary clinic, sanctuary and for education.

"IAPWA are a UK registered charity established to prevent cruelty, neglect and in-humane practices for thousands of dogs and cats in the northern part of Borneo," said Emma.

"The charity is a relatively new organisation and I have worked for them as the veterinary nurse co-ordinator for the last 18 months or so.

"This will be the first project of its kind in the country and once established, will enable thousands of animals to receive the care and attention they need.

"We have been working very hard with the Government and the RSPCA equivalent over there to get land for our buildings and once they are built we are intending to send veterinary teams to provide trap, neuter and release programmes to help the animals.

During the Borneo trek Emma will be attempting the 8km climb of Mount Kinabalu in Sabah.

"This is going to be an incredibly tough challenge but what we plan to achieve with the money is what will get us to the top," she said.

Donations can be made at www.justgiving.co.uk/IAPWAemmagerrard or by contacting Emma at Cain Veterinary Centre on 01691 828205.

Drinker is jailed after threats to burn pub

A MAN WHO got into an argument during a wake at a pub in Oswestry has been jailed after he threatened to burn the bar down before returning with a petrol can and terrifying customers.

by Jason Lavan

Matthew Rogers, 29, was drinking at a wake being held at the Railway Inn in Oswestry last August when he threatened its landlord.

Rogers, from Birch Close, in Ruyton-XI-Towns, had been drinking in the pub since early in the afternoon but got into an argument with another drinker at about 7pm.

Shrewsbury Crown Court heard how Rogers left the pub after the argument and told the landlord, Lawrence Hill, he did nothing wrong, before threatening to return and burn his bar down.

Mr Philip Beardwell, prosecuting, said: "The defendant said 'I'm going to come back and burn your pub to the ground'.

"Five or 10 minutes later Mr Hill saw the defendant with a green plastic petrol can which he shook at Mr Hill and waved towards the petrol station. He now feared the threat would be carried out.

"Five minutes later the defendant returned carrying the petrol can in his hands and Mr Hill began to panic.

"He saw a police car towards the rear of the pub and ran over to it."

Mr Beardwell added the defendant was next seen standing and shouting on the top of a flat roofed Chinese restaurant in the town before he was eventually arrested after a violent struggle with police.

At a previous hearing Rogers admitted a charge of threatening to destroy or damage property.

Judge Robert Trevor-Jones jailed Rogers for eight months.

Mr Michael Sherwood-Smith, for Rogers, said his client had tackled a drug problem.

"He drank quite a great deal on the day. Mr Rogers seemed to be concerned that he was being picked on by the landlord. He insists he was not going to carry out his threat," said Mr Sherwood-Smith.

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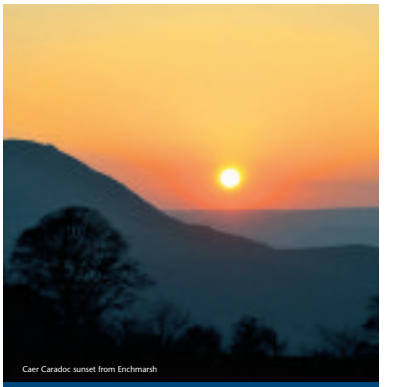

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Music: St Albans Service - Archer
Hodie Christus natus est - Sweelinck
All Welcome

February deadline for pupil choices

PARENTS of children at a school which will be axed next year have until February to decide where their youngsters should go, Shropshire Council bosses have said.

All pupils at the soon-to-shut Maesbury Primary School have been guaranteed places at nearby Kinnerley School, the council said. But parents who don't want to send their child to Kinnerley will be asked to indicate by February their preferred school choice.

A Shropshire Council spokesman said: "The council's admissions team has visited Maesbury Primary School to provide individual advice to parents and carers.

"Places have been guaranteed at Kinnerley Primary School for all pupils at Maesbury Primary School from September 2012.

"However parents and carers can express a preference for another school, either in the area in which they live, or elsewhere.

"In February 2012 they will be asked to indicate whether they want to accept the place at Kinnerley Primary School or to express a preference for a place at another school, and allocations will be announced in mid-April 2012."

Staff and governors announced last week they had accepted defeat in their battle to keep the village school open. Earlier this year the school had 40 pupils but now it has only 26.

A call has gone out for old memorabilia, photos and rolls of honour so the school can save some of its history.

Dismay as shops call for signs to point their way

TRADERS are up in arms after hearing new fingerpost signs will not be pointing the way to shops bordering Oswestry town centre.

New signs have been installed in Oswestry to help point the way for tourists visiting the town centre.

Town officials have been working on a project for many months to try to change the signs in the town to make them clearer for people to see. Traders also thought new signs would be created to point people up to Church Street shops and towards Beatrice Street.

by Graham Breeze

But this is not the case.

Shropshire Councillor Martin Bennett said officials had thought a lot about what the signs were to point to.

He said: "That was something we thought about very hard indeed. But we didn't feel that it would actually have been a destination because we have things like the Wilfred Owen Green, toilets and the Guildhall but shops aren't really a destination.

"They are not going to be on the fingerposts."

He said there were now plans to update the town maps and shops could be highlighted on there.

He said: "There is going to be a phase two to update the street maps and we will be looking to update that."

Wendy Unwin, vice chairman of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce and owner of The Gates Gifts, said: "I am disappointed and upset that the council didn't come back to the traders to explain the reasoning to us.

Forgotten

"Everything that is done is focused around the market and Cross Street. It seems the shops on the edge are always forgotten.

"I think that the town centre needs to realise there are businesses on the edge of town and they should all be working together."

She said the members of the chamber may start to consider putting up their own signs.

The town signs used to be blue with silver writing but the new ones are now black with white text to clearly mark out tourist spots.

It is hoped this will help give the town a positive image and encourage tourism.

The signs point out areas including the Tourist Information Centre and Cae Glas Park.

Date is looming for nominations

TOMORROW is the dealine for nominations for candidates for the 2011 Montgomeryshire Sports Council Awards.

Nomination forms available from katie.hamer @powys.gov.uk or by calling (01686) 614063.

Record year for school shoebox appeal

Pupils Kyle Evans and Alaina Childs pictured with school headmaster Nick Turner, right, and Borderland Rotary Club president Harry Richardson

IT HAS been a record year for a school in Oswestry which has seen youngsters bringing in 50 packages for a Christmas shoebox appeal.

Organisers are thanking members of Holy Trinity Primary School, in Middleton Road, for helping with the appeal being sponsored by the Borderland Rotary Club.

Shoeboxes were distributed around schools in the town who have helped fill them with treats. These will now be sent to people in other countries to help give them a happier Christmas.

Staff from the primary school say they have collected a lot more boxes this year.

Barbara Phillips, administrative assistant, said: "We have taken part in the appeal for the last three years and this year is the year we have seen the most boxes collected. The children enjoy the taking part in the activity.

Excited

"I am really happy with the amount we have collected. Everybody has made the effort to do it even in the current climate.

"Youngsters have joined in from nursery class up to year six and have got quite excited about it.

"I want to say thank you to everybody who took part. It has been good this year."

The boxes are for three different age ranges – five to nine-year-olds, teenagers and the elderly.

The Rotarians have now collected the boxes from the school ready for them to be delivered to countries including Belarus, Ukraine, Romania and Albania. The Rotarians also went to visit Ifton Heath and Whittington primary schools to collect more boxes.

Warning given on underage pub sales

ON-LICENSEES in Powys could be prosecuted if they sell alcohol to underage youngsters after the county council prosecuted two business partners of a north Powys pub.

Powys County Council's Trading Standards Service successfully prosecuted Martin Laurance Crowther and Carol Anne Crowther of The Elephant, Llanidloes.

Welshpool Magistrates Court found both defendants guilty and they were fined £200 each, ordered to pay £282.50 each and a £15 victim surcharge.

Exercises

Cllr Geraint Hopkins, Cabinet member for environment and regulation, said: "Tackling the sale of alcohol to anyone under the age of 18 is an important area of work for Trading Standards. For a number of years, we have carried out test purchase exercises on traders to establish whether they will sell alcohol to those under age.

"Alcohol is an age restricted product for a genuine reason – the implications for a young person's health, welfare and general development cannot be ignored.

"For this reason, we will continue with our test purchase exercises and have a range of enforcement options available if anyone is caught, including prosecution."

The service is also reminding businesses that sell or supply alcohol that they must have in place an age verification policy for their premises.

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Campaign group is voice of the town

A CAMPAIGN group which led the fight against plans to build a multi-million pound supermarket in Oswestry has relaunched itself as a voice of the community.

Oswestry 21 held its relaunch celebrations at The Ironworks, in Church Street to mark its change of direction.

The group has revamped its website and will shift its focus and aims. Members of the group have decided their future now lies in discussing local issues happening in the town.

Chas Nicholson, speaking for OS21, said: "We are relaunching the website and changing the whole orientation of it.

Permission

"We started off being the anti-supermarket campaign group but now we are more of a community voice."

The group has also revealed it is to scale down the number of meetings that it will have now that permission has been granted for a supermarket in the town.

Planning permission was given for a supermarket and mixed-use regeneration scheme to turn part of the town's Smithfield land into a superstore, cinema, petrol station, non-food stores, garden centre, offices and a 900-space car park.

OS21 spokesman Jessie Miller said the group's regular meetings would now be scaled down to just four a year instead of the previous 12.

Kind-hearted club's gift for community

MEMBERS of a golf club on the Shropshire/Mid Wales border have bought a piece of life-saving equipment for a community after raising more than £2,500 through fundraising events.

Officials at the Welsh Border Golf Club near Middletown said some of the money had been spent on a defibrillator and the remaining £1,300 had been given to the British Heart Foundation.

by Graham Breeze

Anne Graham, captain of the golf club's ladies team, said the defibrillator would be stored at the golf club and used by the community.

She added that the money had been raised from fundraising events, which had been held over the last six months.

"I chose the British Heart Foundation as the charity I wanted to raise money for this year, because my family has a history of heart problems and because everyone has a heart and I thought it would be a very worthy cause," she said.

"The golf club has experienced a few incidents with people suffering heart problems before now too, it was only last year that a 17-year-old suffered a heart problem at the nearby activity centre.

"The defibrillator is a great thing to have on site because it can help save people's lives.

Benefit

"This device uses electrical pulses or shocks to help control life-threatening, irregular heartbeats, especially those that could lead the heart to suddenly stop beating.

"The intention of having it at the golf club is so that the whole area can benefit from it and it will be available for the whole community to use," she added.

The defibrillator was handed over to Neil Albinson, proprietor of the golf club, last week when officials from the British Heart Foundation were presented with their cheque by members of the club.

Members of the Welsh Border Golf Club presenting £1,300 to the British Heart Foundation and a defribrilator to the club. Front, from second left, Sion Edwards, from the British Heart Foundation, ladies captain, Ann Graham, club proprieter, Neil Albinson. and men's captain, Ken Biggs.

Last meeting of year for council

MEMBERS OF Llanfyllin Town Council met for the last time this year.

Among the items on the agenda was a report from the town's county councillor Peter Lewis and planning issues.

The council will meet again in the New Year, on January 18.

Bingo session

OSWESTRY Senior Citizens Club's Christmas bingo and raffle took place on Wednesday and the final bingo session of the year will take place on December 19. The club will reopen on January 4.

Family tribute to loving and sociable Owen

THE FAMILY of a teenager who died after being hit by a train near Oswestry have described him as 'everything you could ask for in a son, brother, relative and friend'.

In a moving tribute to their 19-year-old son Owen Knight, his father Andrew Knight from St Martins and mother Hayley Reeves from Chirk said their boy had lived life to the full.

The former Ifton Heath Primary School and Rhyn Park Secondary School pupil died on Sunday, December 4, after being struck by a train at Weston Rhyn and police are not treating the death as suspicious.

Owen Knight

His parents said their son was better known as 'Tid' and was a brother to Sophie and Ellie-May and an uncle to Taylor Knight Sibley.

They said their son was a talented footballer and he captained his school teams and also played for Chirk Youth, Wrexham and Shrewsbury Town.

They said: "Upon leaving school Owen went to work at a local restaurant The Poacher's Pocket and loved his job as a kitchen assistant/chef.

Amazing

"Owen was blessed with some amazing friends and being the outgoing person he was, he socialised with them regularly.

"He lived life to the full, enjoying festivals, gigs and holidays.

"Owen always has been very family orientated, he grew up with the support of a very close family group and gave back the love he received, especially to his two sisters and nephew but also to his family as a whole.

"If we were asked to sum up Owen in one word, we wouldn't be able to.

"He was funny and cheeky, popular and sociable, thoughtful and considerate – but most of all loving and loved.

"He was everything you could ask for in a son, brother, relative and friend which is why he will be so badly missed by everyone who had the pleasure of meeting him.

"We are proud to be writing this about our son as parents, proud our son touched so many people in his short life.

"He gave us everything and more by just being himself.

"We would like to say thank you to so many people for their help and support over the last few days. These include our families and friends of both ourselves and Owen."

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No festive holiday period for our boys in blue

WEST MERCIA Police this week sent out a clear message that there will be a shortage of Christmas cheer from them this year.

They launched a major operation across Shropshire targetting suspected burglars, drug dealers and others involved in crime.

The pre-Christmas strike was the latest in a series of carefully planned police swoops aimed at disrupting criminal activity.

Vulnerable

Police squads carried out early morning warrants at addresses including Oswestry and forced doors at several homes to gain entry, making a total of 10 county arrests.

The raids were a timely reminder that there is no holiday period for our boys in blue and the early wake up calls no doubt caught many with their pants down. Christmas is often a time when we switch off and forget about security but the clear message from the Police is that it's also the time of year when we are at our most vulnerable.

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

with Graham Breeze

WHAT IMPRESSED me this week was the news that a Welshpool soldier had played a major role in saving many lives in Afghanistan.

Along with his Belgian Shepherd, Oslo, Lance Corporal Darren Evans discovered a 20kg bomb planted to devastate life and in so doing saved his colleagues and many civilians.

The news brought home just how fragile life can be on the Afghan front line and what a wonderful job our lads continue to do without ever questioning the risk to their own lives.

Let's hope our boys and girls out there all have a safe festive period and that they are all soon back on British soil.

❑ ❑ ❑

SOME NEWS that didn't surprise me this week was that nearly 3,000 more people visited Oswestry's new leisure centre in October than in the same month last year. That's marvellous news.

Nearly 17,000 people visited the new £10m complex during the month - a 17 per cent rise in usage.

The new centre is a fantastic facility and we hope that it continues to be supported in this way.

❑ ❑ ❑

WHAT REALLY annoyed me was overhearing a discussion between two teachers, bemoaning the fact that they had been criticised for striking over their possible pension cuts.

As one who has worked in the private sector all his life and seen an expected final-salary pension stripped away I have very little sympathy.

With the world in economic crisis can anyone give me a single reason why public sector pensions should be untouchable. Surely we all have to feel the pain.

Group offers something special to speak about...

IT'S THE longest two minutes of my life. . . . I'm supposed to be talking about the best days of my life, but quite inconveniently my brain has just been hijacked by a seven-year-old in a space suit.

by Ben Bentley

"It's Christmas morning. I am wearing a space suit and sitting on my new Chopper," I start, instantly wondering why on earth I am saying all this.

"I'm the one with a knife and fork haircut . . ."

Now I can't stop. My mind is blank.

I've started something I can't finish and have planted an image into everyone's head as me as someone who leads a secret life as a substitute Neil Armstrong who thinks he can fly to the moon on a Raleigh (again, why oh why oh why am I saying all this stuff!?).

And then, looking up and realising that I am now almost certainly boring everyone to near death, I try to change the subject and dry up. 'Public speaking' – two words that are likely to strike the fear of the lord into many people who have a tongue in their heads, but, come the moment to use it before an audience, find that it no longer works.

I am standing in front of an audience at Oswestry Speakers' Corner, and I am quaking. And I mean I am proper teeth-chatteringly, knee-knockingly petrified.

I'd be okay with a roughly prepared speech but we are doing the impromptu random topic thing, whereby someone jots down a secret sentence on a piece of paper, you pick it up, look at it and the watch starts.

Two minutes to talk about said sentence and your time starts now.

Heather speaks to the group

Nerve-wracking

Oswestry Speakers' Corner member Maretta Jarrett says: "I remember the first time I did 'the topic' and it was the most nerve-wracking thing.

"Now I have mastered it - and I feel a lot more confident. Being able to speak in public really does boost your confidence."

Heather Noble who set up Oswestry Speakers' Corner, and whose members meet at The Walls in the town for prepared and impromptu speaking, says: "One thing that public speaking does is it makes you a good audience.

"I try to nod and smile at speakers and you can see their confidence building. We want them to succeed – because it is as embarrassing for an audience as it is for the speaker when things go wrong."

Ah, so it's the *X Factor* without Simon Cowbag?

The judges' words, at least here, are ones of encouragement. "You didn't do badly, actually – you did typically," says group member Charlie Jarrett who admits he joined the group because he found public speaking painful, but has since overcome his fear.

"And what people like best about public speakers is sincerity. It doesn't matter so much what you say, but how you say it and whether you mean it. You come across as someone who is genuine. You have sincerity," adds Heather, encouragingly.

"You have to do the job of speaking while remaining as yourself."

She gives me a few tips. How not to tell a joke. "Jokes often poke fun at someone. You could immediately alienate half your audience.

"Anecdotes or stories that are funny are better."

With these words of encouragement, I decide that I will be back. And this time I'll be leaving the seven-year-old boy in the space suit behind.

Organiser Heather Noble with the group at the Speakers Corner meeting at The Walls, Oswestry

'I am quaking. . . And I mean I am proper teeth-chatteringly, knee-knockingly petrified. I'd be okay with a roughly prepared speech but we are doing the impromptu random topic thing.'

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A: On October 1st new legislation was brought in giving agency workers the right to equal treatment. This means you would be entitled to the same basic working and employment conditions as you would be if the company where you are working had recruited you directly. However, the ruling does not apply until you have held the role within the company for a twelve week qualifying period.
Basic working and employment conditions relate to pay (including basic pay, overtime and holiday pay, performance related bonuses and vouchers for such as childcare), working time, night work, rest periods and breaks and contractual annual leave. In the case of pregnant workers, they now have the right to receive various enhanced entitlements, including time off for antenatal care.
The qualifying period is based on the accruement of twelve consecutive weeks in the role, irrespective of the number of hours worked in those weeks. If you were to have a break from work for any reason during those twelve weeks, then the qualifying period would have to begin again after it. The same would apply if you were to change your role and start a different one. If however a break occurred due to pregnancy, childbirth, maternity, paternity or adoption leave, you would be allowed up to 26 weeks off and the qualifying period would continue where it left off before the break.
Further information relating to this question is available from Robert Williams, a Solicitor with GHP Legal. For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194, visit www.ghplegal.co.uk or attend one of our FREE legal diagnostic clinics every Wednesday 12-5pm (no appointment necessary).

Self-help directory launched by group

AN ONLINE directory of Shropshire's self-help groups has been launched offering those with long-term medical conditions in the Oswestry area advice and information.

The directory was launched at the Princess Royal and Royal Shrewsbury hospitals by Shropshire Self-Help Group Partnership.

A spokesman said self-help support groups aided people with long-term conditions and other issues to better manage their condition and improve their quality of life.

Self care means keeping fit and healthy, as well as knowing how to take medicines, treat minor ailments and seek help when needed.

"If you have a long-term condition, self care is about understanding that condition and how to live with it," the spokesman said.

The directory can be found at www.shropshire.gov.uk/community.nsf

There is also information on the NHS Choices website www.nhs.uk about how everyone can use self care to improve their health and wellbeing.

Anyone thinking of starting a group or wanting advice about an existing one can contact Oswestry Community Action on (01691) 656882.

Coffees and festive fun

THE CHRISTMAS coffee morning in Dolanog near Welshpool will be held in the community centre on December 17 between 10am and 12.30pm.

Stalls will include Christmas gifts and table decorations, bric-a-brac, a great variety of books, videos, CDs and DVDs, children's toys, cakes and produce; a bumper raffle plus the special Christmas raffle of a hamper and a giant meerkat toy.

Church hall hosts event

THE parish of Llanllugan near Welshpool, will be holding its annual Christmas coffee morning on Saturday at the church hall in Cefn Coch.

The event will start at 10.30am, and as well as coffee and seasonal refreshments there will be a raffle, stalls and sideshows.

Churches should be fires of community

WHAT'S this Big Society idea of David Cameron's? It seems he wants us all to get involved in having a say in running things and caring for each other rather than the nanny state being responsible for everyone. Communities deciding what's best and taking care of themselves is really turning the clock back.

Years ago the social services took over the job of caring for the needy from the voluntary organisations and churches. Now the heroic band of volunteers is getting thinner all the time. We are all too busy looking out for ourselves.

David Cameron's advisor Philip Blond is the man behind the Big Society idea, and now, surprisingly, he is admitting that we lost our sense of community when the clever people started to pour scorn on our Christian principles.

"We don't do God," said Alistair Campbell.

Maybe now our leaders are at their wits end they might just turn to the Almighty. The heart of the Christian message is 'love one another as Christ loves us'. This is no soppy, sentimental love, but taking time to get to know people and what's going on around us, working together to improve things. The churches should be places where the warmth of the fire of love spreads to the community around them.

RON JONES
Oswestry

The flags are out and the bunting is out, and there's a street party for the children. These are VE Day celebrations in Rope Walk, off Beatrice Street, Oswestry, in May 1945. Rope Walk no longer exists. The photograph came from a Mr Griffiths of Oswestry. Does the picture ring any bells with you? If so, we would love to hear from you.

Raise pensions, but give us all the same

IN THE NEWS a teacher was complaining about having to work until she was 68.

I was educated from 1937 until 1946. My secondary school maths teacher was brought out of retirement to teach us, as were many more. I left school at 14 and got my retirement pension at 65. That is a total of 51 years' work.

Most teachers don't leave school now until they are 18. They then either go to university or teacher training college for two years so they start work at 20. They therefore only work for 48 years, even if they work until they are 68. I only receive the state pension which I have to manage on so why can't everyone be on the state pension and the money saved could maybe raise our pension a little.

WALTER ROBERTS
Oswestry

LETTERS to the Editor

POST	FAX	E-MAIL
Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford TF1 5HU	01952 254605	letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Badge donation will help cancer battle

WORLD Cancer Research Fund is offering your readers the chance to remember loved ones lost to cancer this Christmas with a Candle of Hope pin badge.

The gold brooch symbolically lights the way to a future free from cancer as money raised from its sale funds essential scientific and education cancer prevention programmes.

This Christmas appeal comes at a time when people's thoughts often turn to departed friends and relatives. The candle emblem provides a reminder of a loved one as well as hope for the future.

To receive your badge, please make a donation at www.wcrf-uk.org/candle or call our team on Freephone 0800 970 1461.

Teresa Nightingale,
General Manager, WCRF

Reunion for vending firm staff planned

IN 1972 A small vending company began its life in the garage of a house in Riverdale Road. It moved to Atcham Industrial Estate, then to Featherbed Lane in Shrewsbury and later to Battlefield Enterprise Park.

It had a few name changes along the way, Shropshire Vending, Shires Vending Services, Mid- Shires Group PLC and was recently taken over for a second time by a national company, losing its Shropshire base. The end of an era!

A successful company that prided itself on its customer service and its ties with the area. Staff joined and stayed, because of friends they made. A reunion is planned for January 21 at Shrewsbury Town Football Club. Contact jacquimully@talktalk.net for more details.

R Dean, Shrewsbury

Praise for Marches School teachers

THE HEADTEACHER at Oswestry's Marches School has paid tribute to staff after it was named the only secondary in Shropshire to be graded as 'outstanding' in Ofsted's annual report.

The school was commended in Ofsted's 2010/11 report and appears for the second time in the educational watchdog's Outstanding Providers List.

Headteacher Sarah Longville said: "At the Marches School, the staff, students, parents, governors and our community partners work hard to keep moving learning forward.

"It is an honour to be recognised in the annual Ofsted report as an outstanding school and we are all thrilled that our hard work has been recognised."

The school is the only secondary in the county on the list. Ofsted inspectors visited the Marches School in September last year, visiting 39 lessons. They held meetings with members of the governing body, staff and groups of pupils.

Mrs Longville said: "Inspectors observed the school's work, the arrangements in place to safeguard pupils and looked at its improvement plan and self-evaluation, as well as assessment and tracking data that teachers use to monitor pupils' progress."

Prizes for students' creations

ARTISTIC youngsters at Oswestry's Marches School have been rewarded for their skills in designing Christmas cards.

For the third consecutive year, students were invited to attend after-school sessions to help develop their design techniques and card making skills.

The students were also asked to design a Christmas card.

Assembly

Naomi Chapman from Year 7, Joshua Page from Year Eight, Megan Elliot from Year Nine and Year 10's Tom Gregory each designed a winning card.

The winners were announced during assembly and prizes were awarded to commend students for their efforts.

The designs are on display in the school corridors.

The winning designs will now be printed and distributed by the school.

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Complaint lodged over cardboard collections

A FATHER-OF-TWO has lodged an official complaint over Shropshire Council's decision to scrap cardboard collections.

by Graham Breeze

Paul McKeown, from Gobowen, is questioning why county residents should have to drive to recycling centres when 'other county councils across the United Kingdom are collecting cardboard'.

A Shirehall debate has already been forced on the decision to end kerbside cardboard collections in the county thanks to an e-petition set up by a county campaigner.

And now Paul McKeown says he has lodged an official complaint with the council after finding it impossible to deal with his waste cardboard.

He said: "We are a normal family with normal waste requirements but there just isn't enough room in the bins that have been provided. And why should we be forced to take our cardboard to recycling centres?

"Other county councils across the United Kingdom are collecting cardboard and some authorities are actually beginning to collect waste cardboard," said Mr McKeown, who lives at Bryn y Castell Gardens, on St Martins Road.

He added: "The Government is actively encouraging local authorities to step up recycling while Shropshire Council is cutting back a valuable service."

Shropshire Council announced the end of the service after waste contractor Veolia said that changes to composting quality standards meant that any compost produced across the UK must now be of a much higher quality.

The council said the decision had been taken out of its hands because it had to follow the UK-wide directive and added: "As a result of this our compost producers will no longer accept garden waste and cardboard that is mixed together. This means, regrettably, we will no longer be able to collect your cardboard for composting."

A spokesman for Veolia said: "We are currently working with Shropshire Council to assess different ways of collecting card."

Paul McKeown is upset beacause the council will not recycle his cardboard

Toy appeal is supported

GENEROUS OSWESTRY residents have taken a toy appeal to their hearts – and have even started making their own to include in the festive collection.

The town's Sainsbury's store has asked customers to buy a small toy and drop it into a trolley at the front of the store, with the toys being distributed to two local good causes.

Tina Wood from Sainsbury's said the toy appeal was proving a massive hit this Christmas and some customers were going to extra lengths to support the cause.

She said: "The collections are going really well and everybody is being very generous.

"A lot of people are coming in and buying a toy and dropping it into the trolley."

Some of the collected toys will be given to Hope House. Others will be given to the Movement Centre at Gobowen.

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Mystery still surrounds builders' merchant fire

by Graham Breeze

AN INVESTIGATION is continuing into the cause of a large fire at a Welshpool builders' merchants which is expected to cost hundreds of thousands of pounds to repair.

The blaze at Boys and Boden in Welshpool happened last week and was the second at the business in five months.

The firm's managing director Dean Hammond said the blaze started in a building making staircases and the damage would take months to repair.

He said today investigations were still under way into the cause of the fire.

"Officers are still trying to establish what caused the fire," he said. "Two of our five machines managed to survive the fire and it's going to cost us £200,000 to repair each of the three other machines.

"Staff will be working round the clock to try and get production levels back up to somewhere near what they should be.

Normal

"We have a lot of work to do and I'm hoping we will be able to manage the backlog of orders that we currently have. It's going to take a good four to five months to get things back up and running as normal again.

"I hope we will be able to get to the bottom of what caused the fire because I really don't want something like this to happen again."

Firefighters from Welshpool, Montgomery, Newtown, Llanfair Caereinion, Knighton and a crew using a aerial platform from Shrewsbury spent more than eight hours tackling the fire last week.

A Mid and West Wales Fire Service spokesman said that officers were still trying to establish the cause of the fire and an investigation was continuing.

It is the second fire to have hit the business in the last five months. In July, five fire crews were called to the site when there was a blaze in the eaves of a building.

Mr Hammond said: "We are the second biggest stair supplier in the UK and at the moment trying to survive in a very difficult economic climate."

Bingo Club in handover

Members of the Welshpool Stroke Club had their Christmas dinner at the Raven in the town. The dinner was also an opportunity for the Welshpool Bingo Club to present £300 to the Stroke Club. From left, Eddie Thomas from the bingo club; chairman Mrs Eileen Evans; and treasurer of the Stroke Club, Reg Thomas. *Picture: Peter Flemmich*

A special guest at town party

MORE than half the tickets have been sold for Welshpool senior citizens' New Year party.

Organiser Alan Crow said tickets were available from Welshpool Jewellers in High Street.

The party is always a sell out but this year tickets appear to be going faster than ever. "Each year I bring along a mystery guest in the form of one of my celebrity friends," he said.

"Last year it was *Emmerdale* and *Coronation Street* actor/entertainer Tony Barton. All I can say is that party goers will be treated to a knockout performance."

The party will be held at Welshpool Town Hall on January 24, with tickets costing £2.50 to include bingo, an entertainer, mystery celebrity guest, spot prizes, and afternoon tea.

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08 (08) **VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.3 CDTi CLUB** Blue £7,250
08 (08) **FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCi ZETEC** Sea Grey, 7,000 miles...£9,750
08 (08) **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTi DESIGN** Silver....DUE IN
08 (08) **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi SXi** 3-d £8,650
07 (57) **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTi SXi** 5-dr. Black £8,450
07 (57) **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTi** 5-dr. Blue, Immaculate. £30 Road Tax....£7650
07 (07) **PEUGEOT 307 HDi** Estate, Red £8,250
07 (07) **RENAULT SCENIC 1.9 DCi DYNAMIQUE** Black....£6,450
07 (56) **KIA CEED LS CRDi** 5-dr. 9,000 miles £8,750
06 (56) **KIA CEED LS CRDi** 5-dr. 9000miles £8,750
06 (06) **FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCi** Tonic Blue, £30 road tax....£6,250
05 (55) **FORD TRANSIT CONNECT SWB** White ....DUE IN
04 (04) **ROVER 45 TDiXL** 5-dr. Blue £2,650
04 (04) **FORD FOCUS C-MAX TDCi** Ink Blue £4,950
03 (53) **ROVER 45 TD IMPRESSION S** 5 -dr....£1,950
03 (03) **ROVER 25 TDiL** 5-door, Silver....£2,250

Petrol Selection

11 (60) **NEW VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE** Automatic £10,750
10 (10) **NEW VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4** Turbo, Black....£12,450
10 (10) **NEW RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE** Tom Tom, 6,000 miles....£10,750
10 (10) **TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 VVTi TR** 5-dr. Black, 7,000 miles....£9,250
10 (10) **NEW ASTRA 1.6 SRi Technical Grey**....£11,950
09 (59) **KIA PICANTO 1.1 STRIKE** Scarlet Red £6,750
09 (59) **SEAT IBIZA 1.4 SE** 5-dr. Pale Blue, 7,000 miles....£7,950
09 (09) **KIA PICANTO 1.1 CHILL** Cool Blue....£5,950
09 (09) **VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 LIFE** Altra Blue....£8,950
08 (58) **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 DESIGN** Technical Grey £7,850
08 (58) **PEUGEOT 308S VTi** Black....DUE IN
08 (58) **KIA PICANTO 2 Automatic,** Diamond Blue £5,950
08 (08) **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 CLUB** 3-dr. Black £6,850
08 (08) **TOYOTA YARIS 1.0 VVTi** 5-dr. 8,000 miles....£6,950
07 (57) **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 DESIGN** 5-dr £6,950
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06 (06) **TOYOTA AYGO 1.0 VVTi+** 5-dr. Pale Blue....£3,950
06 (06) **CITROEN C1 RHYTHM** 5-dr. Road Tax £20 ....£5,750
06 (06) **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 DESIGN** 5-dr £3,750
05 (55) **FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC CLIMATE** 5-dr. Silver £4,250
05 (05) **SEAT IBIZA 1.4 SPORT** 3-dr. Silver....£3,250
04 (04) **AUDI A3 2.0 FSi SPORT Red**....£6,850
04 (04) **PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S** 3-door. Black £2,750
03 (03) **ROVER 75 1.8 CLUB SE** Silver....£4,750
03 (03) **FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX** 5-dr....£3,850
02 (52) **MG ZS 1.8** 1,204 miles, 120+, Trophy Blue £5,995
02 (52) **ROVER 45 SPIRIT 5** 5-dr....£2,650
02 (02) **VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 COMFORT** Blue £2,650
02 (02) **MG ZS 120+** 5-dr. Silver....£2,675
00 (W) **HONDA CIVIC Sport** 3-dr....£1,750

4x4 Selection

09 (59) **KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDi XS.** Black £13,750
08 (58) **KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDi XS 4WD.** Silver....£12,950
07 (07) **SUZUKI JIMNY JLX+** Black/Silver....£6,950
06 (56) **SUBARU IMPREZA 1.5R** Red, 30,000 miles £5,950
06 (56) **LAND ROVER FREELANDER TD4 SPORT.** Red....£10,950
06 (06) **SUZUKI JIMNY JLX.** Gold 37,000 miles....£6,750
06 (06) **KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDi XE.** Black ....DUE IN
06 (06) **SUZUKI IGNIS 1.5 VVT 4 GRIP** Blue £4,750
05 (55) **SUZUKI GRAND VITARA VVT SPORT** Silver £6,750
04 (54) **LAND ROVER FREELANDER TD4 SE** £8,750
02 (02) **TOYOTA RAV 4 D-4D** Green £5,950

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Theft of metal is targeted by police

POLICE officers have launched a crackdown on scrap metal thefts in the Welshpool area following a rise in incidents in recent weeks.

Operation Beagle has been launched by the force in conjunction with Powys County Council and the Environment Agency and will see vehicles being stopped in a bid to stop the thefts in the area.

Scrap metal collectors and yards across Mid Wales will also be visited to reduce the chances of break-ins and thefts.

Sian George, Dyfed Powys Police spokeswoman, said: "An increase in the demand for metals such as copper and lead has led in recent months to metal theft becoming an increasing crime trend across the area.

Incident

"Partners including Dyfed-Powys Police, Powys County Council, Environment Agency Wales, and the Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, are targeting illegal waste carriers and scrap metal collectors as well as reducing the opportunity for thieves to sell on or dispose of stolen metal items by working with local scrap merchants to ensure they comply with the law and identify potential thieves.

"If an incident is ongoing please call 999 or in a non-emergency call 0845 330 2000.

"You can also call Crimestoppers Wales anonymously on 0800 555 111 to report."

Castle opening dates first over the Christmas holiday

ONE OF MID Wales's most popular attractions will for the first time ever open its doors on Boxing Day, New Year's Eve and New Years Day.

Parts of Powis Castle in Welshpool will be open much more over the festive period this year in an attempt to encourage more visitors to come and take a look around the property, National Trust bosses said.

The garden, restaurant and shop will be open from 11am until 3pm, with traditional children's games available next to the restaurant, alongside a thank you letter clinic for all those lovely Christmas presents. For the grown ups, all Welsh beer and cider will be half price in the property's shop.

by Graham Breeze

Alison Dyer, a spokeswoman for Powis Castle, said: "Delicious Christmas treats can be walked off along the garden terraces as you enjoy the wonderful silhouettes created by the sleeping yew trees.

"The castle itself will also be open for tours between noon and 3pm on December 30 and New Year's Eve. We are also open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday until Christmas."

Winter

She said the staff would also be holding behind the scene conservation tours on December 16 between 11am and 12 noon giving visitors the opportunity to visit the state rooms, now closed off and under wraps for the winter months.

She added: "The visitors will be able to see the meticulously detailed work carried out by the housekeeping team, cleaning and conserving the historic contents and interiors of the castle, and will be shown the particular, painstaking techniques of preventive conservation."

On Friday a carol concert will also take place in the ballroom at 7pm and children are being encouraged to visit Santa's Grotto on December 10, 11, 17 and 18.

Gravestone honour for force constable

A POLICE officer who died of a heart attack after being involved in a 'violent arrest' has been recognised for his efforts over 100 years after he died.

PC William Davies, 43, died on November 16, 1903 and was buried at St Nicholas Church, Montgomery. But with his gravestone falling into a state of decay, little was known about the officer or his family, except that his death was recorded in the National Police Officers Roll of Honour.

The gravestone of PC William Davies

The Roll of Honour stated he 'died as a result of heart failure accelerated by a violent struggle during an arrest.'

Now, 108 years after his death and a plea for information about him which resulted in worldwide responses, Dyfed Powys Police has recognised the PC Davies with a ceremony at his grave in Montgomery and the re-dedication of a new headstone.

The headstone was restored to its former glory and unveiled at a ceremony which included Chief Constable Ian Arundale.

Emma takes stock

The Hope House charity shop in Welshpool has a wide variety of Christmas cards in stock. Taking a look at some of the festive scenes was volunteer, Emma Broxton.

Spectacle as school performs Peter Pan

A CAST of more than 100 students put on a spectacular performance of Peter Pan at Welshpool High School last night, Wednesday.

After the success of previous shows, including Oliver, the drama department was putting its own stamp on JM Barrie's classic tale.

Fiona Davies, head of the department, said: "I'm very pleased with the progress that the cast has made in such a short time.

Involved

"Peter Pan is a really good show to perform as there are a lot of parts to get involved with."

The cast, of pupils from year eight to year 13, worked very hard during rehearsals, said Lucy French, assistant director.

"There's also been a great effort from members of staff with the music, the lighting and sourcing items for the sets."

Peter Pan was played by Elen Roberts, and Captain Hook by Jack Williams.

NEWS in brief

Police appeal for crash witnesses

POLICE in Mid Wales area appealing for witnesses to a multi-vehicle collision to come forward.

The crash happened on the A458 in Middletown, near Welshpool at 4.55pm on Saturday with one person taken to hospital with minor injuries and others treated at the scene.

Catharine Evan-Williams, Dyfed Powys Police spokeswoman, said: "At around 4.55pm on Saturday a multiple vehicle road traffic collision happened on the A458 in Middletown, Powys. Three cars were damaged, with injuries sustained to some of the occupants."

Constable Louise Cook added: "I'm hoping anyone who may have witnessed this will get in touch on 0845 3302000."

AM wants super dairy bid called in

THE WELSH Assembly is being asked to call in plans to build a 1,000 cow super dairy on the outskirts of Welshpool.

Farmer Fraser Jones was given planning permission by Powys County Council on November 1 to build the dairy at Lower Leighton Farm, despite the committee being recommended to refuse it.

Now Joyce Watson, Mid and West Wales AM, said she was calling on the Welsh Assembly to call the plans in for investigation.

Carols service

CEFN Chapel, near Trewern, Welshpool, holds a Christmas carol service on December 19 at 1.30pm. Another service will be held on December 22 at 7pm.

Exhibition interprets 12 Days of Christmas song's meanings

A NEW EXHIBITION about the Twelve Days of Christmas has opened at a Powys-based museum.

Powysland Museum, in Welshpool, will celebrate the festive season with a special Christmas exhibition.

by Graham Breeze

This year the museum has sought to visualise the old traditional song The Twelve Days of Christmas with the help of local schools, groups, organisations and museum staff.

The song comes from a traditional Twelfth Night forfeits game in which each participant was required to repeat a list of items named by the previous player and add one more.

Eva Bredsdorff, museum curator, said: "Broadsheets from the 18th century onwards show the song in a number of different variations but by the beginning of the 20th century both the tune and the lyrics had reached their modern form.

"A number of the items may need further explanation. It is believed that the words pear tree may come from the French word 'perdrix' meaning a partridge.

"In more recent times it has been suggested that the gifts mentioned in the lyrics represented aspects of the Catholic faith and the song was a 'catechism' song for Catholic children at a time when practising Catholicism was frowned upon by the Establishment.

"These interpretations are mentioned in the text for each gift. I hope our visitors will enjoy the exhibition and we wish all our visitors and friends a merry Christmas and a happy New Year."

The museum is open daily except for Wednesday between 11am and 1pm and 2pm and 5pm. On Saturdays it is open between 11am and 2pm.

It will close at 1pm on December 23, 24 and 28.

For more details call Eva Bredsdorff on (01938) 554656 or e-mail *powysland@powys.gov.uk*

LETTER

We don't visit since the roads changed

Having just read the news about the town council's rejection of the proposed plans to build on Church Street car park, I feel compelled to comment.

I and my partner were, up until the introduction of the new road layout, regular visitors to Welshpool.

We visited the town because it was such a rarity in having a thriving high street and was the heart of the area.

Then somehow, the main artery seemed to be severed and the flow of visitors were redirected to Tesco.

The new road system makes it virtually impossible for a new visitor to make a an unscheduled stop as its too damned difficult to (a) park or (b) return to the traffic flow. Best to keep moving, and leave town altogether.

Wide-reaching

We have visited since and seen that shops and cafes that were once bustling were even at the height of the season, quiet.

The changes already made to this beautiful town have already been too wide-reaching and potentially damaging.

Welshpool doesn't need any more 'national' retailers. It doesn't need any more cafes.

It does need that ridiculous road system sorting out so that it doesn't favour a Tesco or nothing choice of route!

If any further development plans which do not benefit the town, its occupants, and retailers gain approval then the question must be asked what is the council gaining from it, and why does it seek to destroy the town?

Surely the councillors can see the disastrous potential of this outrageous plan?

SUZANNE KNIGHT
Ketley Park Road
Telford

Warning on bin changes

PEOPLE in the Welshpool area are being reminded to ensure they don't miss their rubbish collections this Christmas.

Powys County Council said normal collections would be changed during the week beginning December 26. It said collection dates on the Monday would be made on Tuesday, and all collections would be a day later than usual. Collections return to normal on January 2. See www.powys.gov.uk/waste or www.wasteawarenesswales.org.uk

Club's Christmas dinner

Members of Welshpool Stroke Club are pictured at their annual Christmas dinner at The Raven Inn. *Picture: Peter Flemmich*

Mortgage scheme wins £1m backing

A MORTGAGE scheme which could help first time buyers in the Welshpool area get onto the housing ladder has been approved by Powys County Council's cabinet.

The Local Authority Mortgage Scheme will now enable the council to 'top up' the deposits of first time buyers who can afford mortgage payments but not a large deposit.

The cabinet agreed to support the proposal and committed £1million to support the scheme, which will also assist in stimulating the housing market.

The scheme will see the council providing a cash-backed indemnity of up to 20 per cent of the property value as extra security, meaning those homebuyers would need a smaller deposit to get a mortgage.

It also means that qualifying homebuyers in the Welshpool area could enjoy the benefits associated with taking out a 75 per cent mortgage with only a five per cent deposit.

Cllr Tony Thomas, cabinet member for housing, said: "Raising a deposit is one of the biggest hurdles for first-time buyers and many banks and building societies are not lending to those homebuyers who cannot put up a deposit of less than 20 to 25 per cent.

"This scheme will not only help first time buyers but will also stimulate the housing market and also the local economy generally. It will also ensure that people are able to access good quality housing."

Youth club founder singing the praises of volunteering

"VOLUNTEERING is good fun and can be very rewarding," says Carol Jones of Llanymynech.

And she should know because she has dedicated most of her retired life to working for the community free of charge. Mrs Jones loves her village and this is why she decided to put in the hours to contribute towards it.

She said: "Llanymynech is very friendly and I know all my neighbours."

The 64 year old grandmother helps out with a number of community organisations. She is the founder of the village's youth club and is a long standing member of the village hall committee.

As secretary of the village hall committee she has helped to raise hundreds of pounds to carry out improvements.

"I have been on the village hall committee for 15 years," she said.

"There is quite a lot of work involved and in recent years we have raised a lot of money to extend the hall and improve it.

"We got the amount needed for the work three years ago but fundraising is still ongoing for its upkeep."

She said she enjoys working for the committee because it helps run the facility for a range of groups to use.

Chatting

Mrs Jones, who has two grown up daughters, moved to the area from Nantwich in 1981 when her husband relocated for work.

She took on a job at a bank which saw her working both in Oswestry and Welshpool.

She then went part time helping a local vicar with his administration work.

But it wasn't until her retirement in 2002 that she put her full weight into volunteering.

Nine years ago she took it upon herself to found the village youth club.

Llanymynech has had a history of vandalism and anti-social behaviour so nearly a decade ago she decided it was time to try and put an end to it.

She said: "I have always liked young people. Nine years ago I started chatting to the youths in the village who were getting into trouble and causing havoc.

"I asked them why they do it and they said it was because there was nothing for them to do. So I decided to set up the group."

The club now has about 35 young members on the books and sees about 12 to 15 people arriving each week.

Sessions take place every Thursday evening and offers activities including IT, Wii games and a place to chill out in.

They also go on summer outings including trips to do ten pin bowling, canoeing and climbing.

Mrs Jones said: "I feel at my age I am a bit long in the tooth to be doing this but I do love it and enjoy it.

"It gets me cross when youngsters are talked about as yobs. The majority are fantastic. There is a small handful that cause problems but they all get tarred with the same brush."

Mrs Jones said with all her work at the village hall her husband sometimes remarks that she might as well live there.

She says she really enjoys being a volunteer and finds it rewarding.

She said: "We have done wonderful work over the years.

"We all feel quite proud of what we have achieved."

Carol Jones: "The young people had nothing to do so I decided to set up the group."

Firms are lining up for a day at market

THE last farmers' market of the year in Oswestry will be held on December 23.

The market, which is run in the Bailey Head, is held once a month and offers a range of produce.

Businesses at the market will include Chirk Fisheries, Bryn Derw Farm Chicken, Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Three Tier Crafts selling cakes.

Compost

Also trading on the day and adding to the variety on offer will be Shropshire Pickle, Paztarian olives, Compo's Compost Heap, and the Little Cup Cake Company.

Anyone who would like a stall at Oswestry Farmers' Market should contact David Clough, at Oswestry Town Council, on (01691) 680222.

Jobless can join the club

A JOBS club is being held in Oswestry to help people find work.

The meeting will take place at the town library tomorrow, Friday from 10.30am until 11.30am.

It is a drop-in service offering friendly and informal advice.

It is also a space for people to meet and share experiences and get help with returning to work.

For more information, telephone (01691) 677388.

Approval for speed limit on rural road

LONG-awaited speed restrictions have been approved for a country road near Oswestry – despite police not being prepared to enforce them.

Local residents have been campaigning for a 40mph limit on the A495 from Llynclys to Porthywaen for several years and Shropshire councillors have agreed to implement the road changes.

Accidents

A report to councillors said if a reduced speed limit was not implemented there could be ongoing accidents and a lower quality of life for local residents.

But a report from West Mercia Police objected, saying to be enforceable traffic calming methods were needed.

The report also stressed that the police force would not be prepared to carry out any speed enforcement should there be any subsequent complaints.

Spielberg film is being shown

FILM LOVERS in Oswestry will be treated to a screening at the town's theatre. *Super 8*, produced by Steven Spielberg, will be shown at the Attfield Theatre, in Bailey Head, on January 7 from 7.30pm.

It is directed by J.J Abrams and is a movie about movies. It is a film that is in love with the past and is based in 1979. Tickets cost £5 for adults and £3 for under 16 year olds.

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Eco-friendly way to keep nice and warm

AS THE winter months take hold, the heart-warming image of cosying up to a roasting hot fire comes to mind – and a company in Four Crosses is bringing this image to life in a new unique and eco-friendly way.

Sanderson's Eco Fuel manufactures environmentally friendly wood briquettes that will keep you warm throughout the cold months, without worrying about creating an extensive carbon footprint.

Set up by husband and wife duo, Nigel and Gill Sanderson, the Burn Right briquettes are the first of their kind to be introduced into the area.

They are made by compressing waste wood shavings and dust into one kilogram blocks using 250-ton of hydraulic pressure which almost take on the burning behaviour of coal.

Natural

"With the support from Powys County Council's Zero Waste Grant we started our new business in April of this year," said Gill.

"The briquettes are completely natural, there are no additives as the extreme pressure produces lignin, a natural component of wood. This then solidifies and binds the briquettes together. They are virtually smokeless, and are ideal for open fires, wood burning/multi-fuel stoves and chimineas."

"There is a free delivery service within 20 miles radius of the workshop. For further information or to place an order please phone 01691 830075 or visit our website www.sandersonsecofuel.co.uk."

Gill Sanderson of Sanderson's Eco Fuel – manufacturer of environmentally friendly wood briquettes

Family-run firm has plenty of drive

RALLY MARKETING, a family-run Welshpool business, now offers a wide selection of services from its Boot Street headquarters.

After starting out selling goods to the world of car rallying the company has expanded since opening the Welshpool premises.

Operated by Howard and Susan Watkins and their son James, Rally Marketing is known for specialising in supplying the rallying world with anything from an emergency part to full protective competitor clothing, and they are recognised at the country's top events.

Photocopying

The Welshpool shop offers a full colour photocopying service, is well stocked with stationery and artists' materials and now markets personalised clothing for both private and business use.

The family business also offers a full vinyl sign writing service for vehicles, shop front, banners and exhibition stands.

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Five-bed home with views over the Shropshire Plain

Tan-y-Coed, Llynclys, Oswestry, an atttractive five bedroomed country house overlooking the Shropshire Plain, with two acres of land and gardens, a large workshop and double garage, is for sale through JJ Dell for £499,950.

It has a reception hall, sitting room, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, laundry and utility, cloakroom, five bedromed, a bathroom, two en suites, a games room, a fine garen and separate pony paddock. The detached home was built in the 1930s with later extensions. It backs onto open fields and has views to the front.

In more detail the accommmodation comprises a reception hall with parquet wood block flooring and a sitting room with a gas burning stove. The lounge has a deep bay window, feature wall beams, an oak beam and a solid fuel burning stove in a pine fire surround.

The dining room has French doors out to a side patio with balustrade and timber wood decking, a feature brick arch over French doors and polished wood block flooring.

The breakfast kitchen has modern hardwood panelled faced units with a stainless steel sink unit and mixer, fitted wall and base units, work tops, plumbing for an automatic washing machine, an integrated dish washer, Stanley LPG gas cooker with double oven, two hot plates.

The rear entrance/laundry room plumbing for a washing, the wall-mounted LPG boiler, and a cloakroom.

The master bedroom has a stripped pine boarded floor and an ensuite cloakroom with a Velux window.

There are three further bedrooms and a family bathroom with a coloured suite.

Bedrom five has an en suite with a shower, jacuzzi bath and a pine boarded floor.The games room, above the garage, could be adapted into further bedroom accommodation if required.

There is about half an acre of gardens, a concrete yard, a workshop/barn and a rear garden with lawns and fruit trees. At the front is a brick driveway and patio, garden and ornamental pool and lawn with flower and herbaceous borders plus a double garage and paddock of around two acres.

For further information contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 or visit www.jjdell.co.uk

Well-presented first floor apartment on outskirts of the town

Number 24 Almond Avenue, Gobowen, near Oswestry, is a well-presented two-bedroom first floor flat on the edge of Gobowen, well placed for access to the A5 and rail links.

The property is for sale through Samuel Wood with a guide price of £92,500.

It has an entrance hall, inner hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom. The property has double glazing, gas-fired central heating and an enclosed rear garden.

For further information contact Samuel Wood at 01691 659951 or visit www.samuelwood.co.uk

Detached bungalow in quiet cul-de-sac has no upward chain

Number 38 Jasmine Gardens, Oswestry, is a well appointed two-bedroom detached bungalow in a quiet cul-de-sac position.

It is for sale through JJ Dell at £169,950 with the benefit of no upward chain.

With gas central heating and double glazing, it has a reception hall, lounge/dining room, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, a detached garage, ample car parking and attractive, easily maintained gardens.

For further information or to arrange a viewing, contact selling agents JJ Dell on 01691 653437 or visit www.jjdell.co.uk

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PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK

Spacious detached bungalow includes a conservatory

Number 4 City Gardens, Four Crosses, Llanymynech is a spacious detached bungalow, is for sale at £189,950.
It has an entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, utility, cloakroom, three bedrooms, shower room and conservatory, as well as oil fired central heating, double glazing, large level garden and an integral garage.

For more information please contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 or visit www.morrismarshall.co.uk

Extended property has parking for up to four vehicles

14 Meadow Close, Oswestry is an extended, semi-detached bungalow and is on sale for £123,000.
It has an entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, two good sized bedrooms and a bathroom.
To the outside there are lawned and shrubbed gardens to the front and paved, gravelled and lawned gardens to the rear. There is a driveway providing parking for up to four cars as well as a single garage.

For more information please contact Town & Country on 01691 679631 or visit www.townandcountryoswestry.com

Stone cottage is for sale without any onward chain

Rock House, Llanrhaeadr, near Oswestry, a superbly-situated detached stone cottage in need of refurbishment is for sale with an asking price of £179,000 with no chain.
It has oil central heating, delightful views, a living room, dining room, kitchen, cloakroom, shower room, family bathroom, three double bedrooms, a cellar, an easily maintained garden to the front and raised lawned area with small area of broadleaf wood to the rear.

For more information please contact Norman Lloyd on 01691 653243 or visit www.normanlloyd.com

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PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK

Superbly appointed detached bungalow close to village

56 Long Croft, Weston Rhyn, near Oswestry is a superbly appointed detached bungalow in superb condition in an ideal position close to the village centre.
It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £229,500.
With outstanding views over fields to the rear this spacious bungalow has an entrance hall, sitting room, fully fitted kitchen/breakfast room, large conservatory, three excellent bedrooms, family shower room and en-suite shower, double glazing, gas central heating, security system, garage, delightful gardens and grounds.

For further information contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 or visit www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk

Much improved cottage for sale

Knighton House, Ruyton XI Towns near Oswestry is a beautiful, individual detached cottage.
It is for sale through Monks with a reduced asking price of £149,000 with no chain.
The much improved and well presented accommodation includes a kitchen/dining room, lounge, landing, two bedrooms, refitted bathroom and an enclosed rear garden with patio and large shed.

For more information please contact Monks on 01743 361422 or visit monks.co.uk

Delightful property in rural hamlet

15 Nant-y-Caws, Oswestry is a delightful character semi-detached cottage in a conveniently located rural hamlet with extensive gardens and access to The Morda Brook.
It is for sale through James & Co at £225,000 with no chain.
It has an open plan entrance hall, sitting room, fully fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms and a bathroom, parking area for two/three vehicles, garden and garden shed.

For more information please contact James & Co on 01691 657077 or visit www.jamesandcoproperty.co.uk

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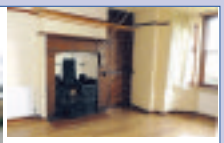
- A wide driveway with ample parking together with a 2nd Driveway
- Ideal for a caravan. Lawned garden to the fore and large patio to rear
- Raised shrubbed garden and views over agricultural land adjoining.



NEW

Briggs Lane, Pant £157,500

- A most spacious and comfortably appointed Semi-Detached House
- Near the Montgomeryshire branch of the Shropshire Union Canal
- From the 1st floor there are views across to the Breiddens & Rodney's Pillar
- Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility, Cloaks
- 1st Floor Landing leading to Three Bedrooms, En-Suite Shower Rm
- Family Bathroom. Ample parking together with a lawned garden

NEW

Whitefriars, oswestry £129,950

- A well located and comfortably appointed Semi-Detached Bungalow
- Situated mid way along Whitefriars & being convenient to all facilities
- Entrance Hall, Sitting/Dining Room/Sun ConservatoryKitchen,
- Two Excellent Bedrooms, Wet Room Shower. D/G, Gas C/H
- Garage & herringbone bricked driveway with ample parking
- Gardens to fore & rear.

NEW

Dol Emrys, Pen-Y-Bont £127,500

- A most generous and well appointed Semi-Detached House
- Set on a semi elevated position in a rural location
- Entrance Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Rm
- Three Excellent Bedrooms, Family Bathroom. Oil C/H, D/G
- Large enclosed garden to the rear. Parking for several vehicles.

Berwyn villas, Gobowen £80,000

- A Semi-Detached House set within an excellent location
- Close to Village centre and near to Gobowen Primary School
- Sitting Room, Living Room, Kitchen
- Bathroom, Landing leading to Three Bedroom
- The property is ripe for further improvement and upgrades
- Presents an ideal opportunity to convert to a comfortable home

NEW

Building Plot, Gobowen £60,000

- A well located building plot with Outline Planning Permission
- For a single storey dwelling situated within the centre of the village
- The site is predominantly flat and level with mains water,
- Mains electricity, mains gas and mains drainage close by.

NO CHAIN

Plas Ffynnon Way, Oswestry £184,950

- A superbly appointed Detached Bungalow
- Ent Hall, Sitting Rm/Dining Area, Conservatory
- Kitchen with appliances. 3 Bedrooms, Family Bathrm
- En-suite Shower to the main bedroom
- D/G, Gas C/H, Cavity wall and loft insulation
- Garage, Car Port, Delightful gardens and grounds

NO CHAIN

Ambleside Road, Oswestry £145,000

- A lovely Semi-Detached Modern Bungalow
- Entrance Hall with Cloaks, Sitting Room/Dining Room
- Kitchen with appliances, Central Hallway leading to 2 Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom. Gas fired central heating, double glazing
- Car port, delightful fully enclosed garden to the rear
- PVC clad for easy maintenance. In superb order throughout

NO CHAIN

Shrewsbury Road, Oswestry £149,950

- Well appointed Semi-Detached House
- Close to town facilities
- Sitting Rm, Dining Rm, Conservatory
- Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- Gas fired central heating, D/G
- Delightful enclosed garden to rear

NO CHAIN

Aston Way, Oswestry £159,950

- A well positioned Detached Residential House
- Entrance Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen
- Three Good Size Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- Gas fired central heating, pvc double glazing
- Single garage/utility, lawned garden with parking
- Enclosed garden to the rear.

Cabin Lane, Oswestry £169,950

- A well located and comfortably appointed Detached House
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Sitting Room, Separate Dining Room
- Kitchen, Utility Room, 3 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- En-Suite Shower Room. Gas C/H, single garage
- Ample parking space to the fore
- Large lawned garden to the rear

Aspen Court, Weston Rhyn £187,500

- A most spacious Detached Modern Bungalow
- Ent Hall, Sitting Rm, Dining Rm, Fitted Kitchen
- Large Conservatory, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- En-Suite Shower Room, Utility Rm. D/G
- Cavity wall insulation, Gas C/H, single garage
- Fully enclosed rear gardens with extensive patio

The Wood, Maesbrook £194,950

- A most comfortably appointed and spacious Detached Bungalow
- Situated in an idyllic rural position adjacent to open countryside
- Ent Porch, Entrance Hall, Sitting Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room. double glazing
- Large garden with double garage, greenhouses and store sheds

NO CHAIN

Welsh Walls, Oswestry £210,000

- A superb Detached Spacious Victorian House
- Close toTown Centre & overlooking Cae Glas Park.
- Entrance Hall, Sitting Rm, Living Rm
- Morning Rm, Dining Rm, Kitchen, 5 Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom. Property has recently been upgraded
- A complete new roof covering with rainwater goods
- Further improvements required

Balmoral Close, Oswestry £215,000

- A most spacious high specification Detached House
- Wide Entrance Hall, Cloaks
- Sitting Rm with bay, Dining Rm, Conservatory
- Study/Bedroom 4, Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, Utility
- 3 further Bedrooms, Luxury Bathroom
- D/G, Gas C/H. majority cavity insulation
- Gardens to front & rear, Garage & parking

NO CHAIN

Hampton Rise, Oswestry £219,950

- A most spacious Detached Bungalow
- Glazed Entrance Porch, Ent. Hall, Sitting Room
- Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- 3 Bedroom, En-Suite Shower Rm, Family Bathrm
- Double glazing, gas fired central heating, garage
- Lawned gardens with South West facing patio to rear
- Designed for easy maintenance

NO CHAIN

Roft Street, Oswestry £230,000

- A most extensive 6 bedroom Grade II Listed 4 storey Georgian Town House
- Entrance Vestibule, Reception Hall, Living Room/Dining Room, Kitchen
- Basement - 6 Rooms (potential for self contained apartment)
- 1st Floor - 2 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom. 2nd Floor - 4 Bedrooms
- 3rd Floor - 2 Attic Rooms, Gas C/H, Enclosed garden to rear & parking
- A lovely home. Viewing highly recommended

NO CHAIN

St Martins Road, Gobowen £239,000

- 2 BRAND NEW Detached Houses
- Situated within a short cul-de-sac
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Dining Rm,
- Large Sitting Rm with Square Bay
- Fully Fitted Kitchen with Appliances
- Utility Room, Four Bedrooms
- En-Suite Shower, Family Bathroom
- Gas C/H, D/G

School Lane, St Martins £249,995

- A spacious Detache House situated within a private driveway
- Ent Hall, Cloakroom, a Large Sitting/Dining Room, Conservatory
- Snug, Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, Five Bedrooms, Family Bathrm, En-Suite
- Oil C/H, D/G, single garage, parking for several vehicles
- A fully enclosed lawned rear garden with patio

Upper Brook Street, Oswestry £265,000

- A superbly appointed and ideally positioned Period House
- Wide Entrance Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Four Excellent Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom, En-Suite Shower Room.
- Gas fired central heating,
- Vehicular access to the garage from the fore.

NO CHAIN

Oswalds Well Lane, Oswestry £279,950

- A New and beautifully appointed Detached House
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Large Sitting Rm, Dining Rm
- Fully Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room with a range of Appliances
- Utility, 5 Bedrooms on 1st floor with
- En-Suite Shower Room
- Bathrm, 2nd Floor Bedroom 6 with En-Suite
- Fully insulated, D/G, Gas C/H, garage
- Gardens and ample parking

Daisy Lane, Whittington £285,000

- A superbly appointed Detached House set in an idyllic location
- Wide Entrance Hall, Inner Hallway, Large Sitting Room, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Utility with WC, Four Excellent Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- Separate WC, Two Large Attic Rooms. Gas fired central heating
- Idyllic gardens and grounds. Viewing highly recommended.

Haimwood, Llandrinio £325,000

- A most delightful and generous Detached Country Cottage
- With Annex, Barn & Outbuildings. With approx 2.75 Acres
- Large Sitting Rm, Kitchen/Dining Rm with multi stove, Sun Rm
- 2 Beds, Family Bathroom. Fishing rights on the River Severn
- Underfloor heating to the Sitting Room & Kitchen/Dining Room
- Mature gardens & grounds approached over a gravelled driveway

NO CHAIN

Whittington, Nr Oswestry £218,000

- A spacious Detached Bungalow
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Large Sitting Rm
- New Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, Utility, 3 Beds
- New Family Bathroom/Shower Room
- New En-Suite Shower Room
- Gas C/H. D/G. single garage
- Good size gardens and grounds

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LETTINGS

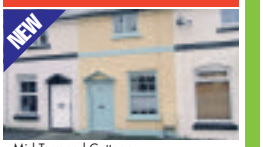
Oswestry, 1 Bed Retirement Apartment	£300 p.c.m.
Oswestry, 1 & 2 Bed Apartments from	£450 p.c.m.
Llangynog, 2 Bed cottage	£450 p.c.m.
Oswestry, 2 Bed Mid Terrace	£475 p.c.m.
Oswestry, 3 Bed Det Bungalow	£600 p.c.m.
St Martins, 4 Bed Semi-Det House	£600 p.c.m.
Oswestry, 4 Bed Townhouse	£600 p.c.m.
Treflach, 3 Bed Det Bungalow	£600 p.c.m.
Gobowen, 3 Bed, 3 storey House	£600 p.c.m.

OSWESTRY

- Retirement Apartment
- One Double Bedroom
- Ground Floor Location
- On Site House Manager
- Car Parking

OFFERS OVER £69,950

OSWESTRY



- Mid Terraced Cottage
- In Need of Updating
- Two Bedrooms
- Close to Town Centre
- Beamed Ceilings
- No Chain

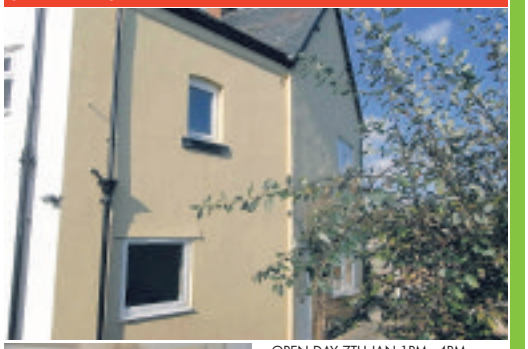
£89,950

OSWESTRY

- End Terraced House
- Three Bedrooms
- Original Features
- Close To Town Centre
- Rear Garden
- Upvc Double Glazing

£99,950

ST MARTINS



- OPEN DAY 7TH JAN 1PM - 4PM
- Semi-Detached Cottage
- Two Bedrooms
- Private Gardens
- Oil Central Heating
- uPVC Double Glazing

£114,950

OSWESTRY

- Semi-Detached House
- Large Rear Garden
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Off Road Parking
- Spacious Accommodation

£128,995

LLANSANTFFRAID

- Modern Semi-Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Parking And Single Garage
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
- Oil Central Heating
- Double Glazing

£135,000

OSWESTRY

- Modern Semi-Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Edwardian Conservatory
- Beautifully Presented
- Cul de Sac Location
- Garage & Parking

£138,950

Town and Country
would like to wish all
of our customers
Past, Present and Future
a very
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

GOBOWEN

- Modern End Mews House
- Three Storey Accommodation
- Three Double Bedrooms
- En Suite Facilities
- Off Road Parking
- No Chain

£150,000

OSWESTRY

- Victorian Town House
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Spacious Accommodation
- Close to Town Centre
- Attractive Rear Garden

£150,000

WESTON RHYN

- Detached House
- Four / Five Bedrooms
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Double Garage
- Workshop
- Ample Parking
- Viewing Recommended

£245,000

LLANRHAEADR Y M

- Det Barn Conversion
- Four Bedrooms
- Three Rec. Rooms
- Stunning Interior
- Paddock Approx. 2 Acres
- Rural Location

£435,000

2-4 Willow Street, Oswestry, SY11 1AA Visit all our propertiesat www.townandcountryoswestry.com

NAEA

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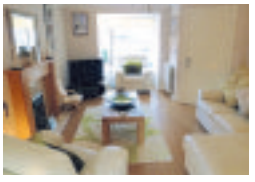
RICHMOND HARVEY

Campbell Close, Oswestry

★★ENVIABLE SIZE GARDENS & PARKING★★ Enjoying a pleasant end cul-de-sac location within this favoured residential locality Richmond Harvey Properties are pleased to release this most comfortably appointed 3 bedroom detached family house which benefits from a Garage, Carport and Conservatory. The property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen/Dining Room, Conservatory, First Floor Landing, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Fired Central Heating, Majority PVC Double Glazing, Driveway and Further Gravel Area suitable for caravan/boat storage. Neatly landscaped gardens to front, side and rear. VIEWING FULLY RECOMENDED.

Offers in Region of £169,950

Cae Gwynn Close, Morda



★★PRICED FOR QUICK SALE★★ Richmond Harvey Properties are favoured with instructions to market this most immaculately and tastefully improved 4 bedroom modern detached family house to the market which benefits from a most attractive re-fitted kitchen and bathroom together with garage conversion presently utilised as a dining room. The property offers spacious well planned accommodation comprising: Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Play Room, Re-Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room, Dining Room, First Floor Landing, Master Bedroom Ensuite, Three Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Gas Fired Central Heating, Double Glazing, Double Width Driveway and Landscaped Garden to Rear. NO CHAIN.

Offers in Region of £195,000

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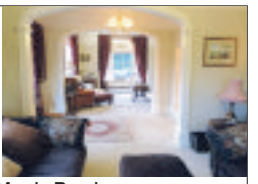


Valley Court, Morda Road

Richmond Harvey Properties are delighted to introduce this tastefully improved and most substantial detached Victorian residence which enjoys a truly fabulous edge of town position. The property offers a wealth of character features to include: Elegant Reception Hall, Inner Hall, Cloakroom, Cellar, Drawing Room, Dining Room, Breakfast Room, Family Room, Elegant Kitchen, Rear Hall, Utility, Rear Cloakroom, Study, Spacious Landing, Master Bedroom Suite One with Ensuite, Bedroom Suite Two with Dressing Room, Walk-In Wardrobe and Ensuite, Three further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Annexe: Open Plan Living Room/Dining Room/Kitchen, First Floor Bedroom, Bathroom and Sauna, Gymnasium with Bar, Landscaped Gardens with Sweeping Driveway and Triple Garage.

Guide Price £950,000

Sweeny Drive, Morda

Richmond Harvey Properties are delighted to release this most immaculately presented modern 4 bedroom detached family house to the market which enjoys a pleasant cul-de-sac location within this popular development and benefits from two reception rooms, an attractive kitchen, utility and WC, master bedroom Ensuite, three further bedrooms and family bathroom. Neatly landscaped gardens, driveway providing ample off-street parking and garage. Gas Fired Central Heating, Double Glazing. TRULY A MUST SEE PROPERTY!!

Offers in Region of £204,950

Whitfield Close, Oswestry

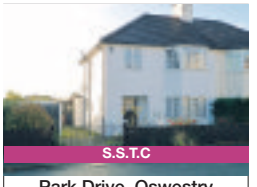
★★IMMACULATE & TASTEFULLY IMPROVED★★ Richmond Harvey Properties are delighted to introduce this most well appointed two bedroom semi detached house to the market which enjoys a pleasant cul-de-sac location within this popular residential locality. The property benefits from excellent order throughout and includes a re-fitted kitchen and larger than average single garage. MUST BE SEEN.

Offers in Region of £126,950

Bronhaul, Sarn, Newtown

WITH PLANNING PERMISSION FOR A DOUBLE GARAGE AND KITCHEN/UTILITY EXTENSION Richmond Harvey Properties are favoured with instructions to market this 3/4 bedroom detached country bungalow to the market which has recently been extended and enjoys generous gardens with delightful countryside views. The property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Living Room with open fire, Sitting Room/Bedroom 4, Dining Room, Kitchen, Master Bedroom Ensuite, Two Further Bedrooms and Family Bathroom, Oil Fired Central Heating, Double Glazing where stated, Driveway providing parking/turning for several vehicles. VIEWING FULLY RECOMMENDED.

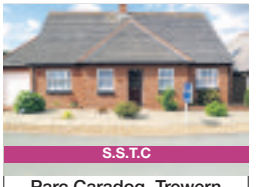
Offers in Region of £249,950



Park Drive, Oswestry

Situated in one of Oswestry's most sought after residential areas, Richmond Harvey Properties are favoured with instructions to market this mature 3 bedroom semi-detached house which requires updating and enjoys an extensive rear garden. The property briefly comprises: Open Fronted Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility with Pantry and WC, Side Porch, First Floor Landing, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom and separate WC, majority PVC Double Glazing, Gas Fired Central Heating, Driveway, Garage, Timber Garden Shed, Greenhouse and Gardens. No Chain.

Offers Over £170,000



Parc Caradog, Trewern

URGENT SALE REQUIRED Modern 3 bedroom detached bungalow briefly comprises Entrance Hall, Dining Room, Living Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Attached Garage with ample parking for two vehicles and most attractively maintained landscaped gardens.

Offers in Region of £159,950

Old Mill Avenue, Morda

Modern 4 bedroom detached family house which benefits from a large Conservatory and extensive rear garden. The property also comprises: Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen, Utility, Dining Room, First Floor Landing, Spacious Master Bedroom En-suite, Three Further Bedrooms and Family Bathroom, Driveway providing parking for 5 vehicles, Integral Garage. Gas Fired Central Heating, PVC Double Glazing, Viewing fully recommended.

Offers in Region of £242,000

Park Avenue, Oswestry

A well positioned and spacious 4 bed Victorian mid terraced town house which has the benefit of off-road parking and a Garage. Entrance Hall, Cellar, Sitting Room, Lounge and Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility and WC, Four Bedroom, Recently re-fitted Bathroom, Gas Fired CH, DG where stated and Gardens.

Offers in Region of £175,000

Longueville Drive, Oswestry

A three bedroom detached family house which has been tastefully improved to include: fitted kitchen, utility and neatly landscaped gardens. The property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Cloaks, Lounge with feature fireplace, Dining Room, Attractive Fitted Kitchen, Utility, First Floor Landing, Master Bedroom Ensuite, Two Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Gas Fired Central Heating, Double Glazing as stated, Double width driveway, Garage and neatly landscaped gardens.

Offers in Region of £179,950

Stargarreg Lane, Pant

A most comfortably appointed detached house: Entrance Hall, Wet Room, Utility, Inner Hall, Study/Bedroom 4, Living Room, Dining Room/Bedroom 3, Kitchen, Master Bedroom Ensuite, Guest Bedroom Two and Family Bathroom. DG, Oil Fired CH, Driveway providing extensive parking and neatly landscaped gardens.

Offers in Region of £244,950

Aspen Grange, Weston Rhyn

A 4 bed detached family house which occupies a pleasant cul-de-sac location: Entrance Hall, Cloaks, Sitting Room, Lounge/Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen, Master Bedroom Ensuite, Three Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Gas Fired CH, DG where stated, Driveway, Gardens.

Offers in Region of £199,950

Station Road, Gobowen

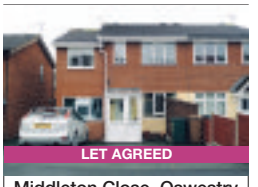
A most substantial 4 bedroom attached residence which enjoys a private edge of village location. The property enjoys a delightful tree lined plot and accommodation to include: Reception Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloakroom, First Floor Landing, Master Bedroom Ensuite, Three Further Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Feature Balcony/Sun Terrace, Parking and Gardens. The property is conveniently placed for road and rail links. Viewing Fully Recommended. NO DSS. AVAILABLE.

£725 PCM

Croft House, Weston Rhyn

A spacious modern 4 bedroom executive detached house benefitting from a Detached Annexe/Garage which would be ideal for an elderly relative/teenager or professionals working from home. The property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Cloaks, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Conservatory, Master Bedroom Ensuite, Three Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, PVC Double Glazing, Gas Fired Central Heating, Annexe/Garage: Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Wet Room, First Floor Living Room & Bedroom, Single Garage. Driveway and Gardens. AVAILABLE. NO DSS.

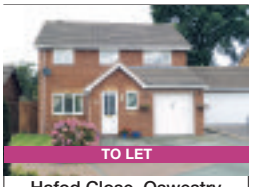
£995 PCM



Middleton Close, Oswestry

★★AVAILABLE FROM JANUARY 2012★★ A tastefully extended unfurnished 3 bedroom semi detached house which benefits from an attractive Kitchen, Utility, Dining Room, Former Garage presently utilised as a 4th Bedroom and Master Bedroom Ensuite with Study. The property enjoys a pleasant cul-de-sac location with ample off-street parking and low maintenance garden to rear. No DSS or Smokers. Viewing Fully Recommended.

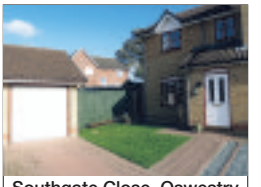
£595PCM



Hafod Close, Oswestry

Enjoying a pleasant cul-de-sac location within this sought after locality,a well appointed modern four bedroom detached family house which benefits from a spacious Kitchen/Dining/Family Room and Master Bedroom En-suite. The property also comprises: Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Living Room, Utility, Family Bathroom, PVC Double Glazing, Gas Fired Central Heating, Double Width Driveway, Integral Garage, Gardens to front and rear. Early viewing recommended by the owners agents.

£725 PCM



Southgate Close, Oswestry

Tastefully improved by the present owners to include re-fitted Kitchen and Conservatory, Richmond Harvey Properties are delighted to introduce this most well appointed modern 3 bedroom semi detached house to the market. The property enjoys a pleasant end cul-de-sac location within this popular residential locality and is conveniently placed for local amenities and transport links. MUST SEE PROPERTY.

Offers in Region of £145,000

Vyrnwy Road, Oswestry

A truly spacious and most tastefully improved two 'double' bedroom mature semi detached house which benefits from a re-fitted Kitchen and Luxury Bathroom. The property enjoys a convenient position for local town centre amenities and briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, First Floor Landing, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, PVC Double Glazing where stated, Gas Fired Central Heating, Rear Lobby, Garden Room/Store and Gardens to include feature decked balcony/patio. Viewing Recommended.

Offers in Region of £132,950

The Cottages, High Fawr Avenue, Oswestry

Enjoying a delightful tucked away position within this most sought after residential locality Richmond Harvey Properties are delighted to introduce this individual and most tastefully extended two bedroom semi detached cottage style bungalow to the market which briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Living Room, Attractive Kitchen and Dining Area, Two Bedrooms and Attractive Bathroom, Gas Fired Central Heating, Double Glazing where stated, Driveway providing ample off road parking and Gardens. Early viewing recommended by the owners agents.

Offers in Region of £165,000

The Hollies, Church Lane, St Martins

Enjoying a private position yet conveniently placed for local village amenities. A most comfortably appointed 3 bedroom detached bungalow to the market which benefits from an attached double garage and garden room extension (possible 4th bedroom or study). The property also comprises: Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Spacious Living Room/Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom. Double Glazing where stated, Gas Fired Central Heating, Driveway and Most Attractively Landscaped Gardens to Front and Rear. Viewing Fully Recommended.

Offers in Region of £230,000

The Monklands, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury

Richmond Harvey Properties are favoured with instructions to makrte this most well appointed unfurnished two bedroom First Floor Apartment which enjoys a sought after location, conveniently placed for local Town Centre amenities. The property briefly comprises:- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, electric heating and two numbered parking spaces. Available Now. No DSS, Pets or Smokers.

£650 PCM

Halls

Broomhall Lane, Oswestry

An executive detached family home situated on an small exclusive private development situated on the outskirts of Oswestry Town with superb South facing open countryside views.

- 5 Double Beds (Inc 3 Master Suites)
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Superb South Facing Views
- Double Garage & Parking
- Immaculately Presented
- Viewing Highly Recommended

Contact Oswestry **Price: £550,000**

Cabin Lane, Oswestry

A two bedroom semi detached ideal first time or investment purchase.

- 2 Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Garden
- Parking

Contact Oswestry **Price: £110,000**

Boot Street, Whittington

A lovely extended 3 bedroom semi detached cottage situated in a sought after village location near to the Church and Castle.

- 3 Bedroom Cottage
- Retaining Some Original Features
- Spacious Open Plan Lounge
- Kitchen With Vaulted Ceiling
- Dressing Room Leading To Master Bedroom
- Gardens, Garage & Parking

Contact Oswestry **Price: £229,950**

Overton Road, St Martins

An immaculate and spacious detached four bedroom family home situated in a popular residential area with lovely open countryside views to the Welsh Hills in the distance

- 4 Bedroom (Master & En-Suite)
- 2 Reception Rooms & Conservatory
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Gardens
- Parking

Contact Oswestry **Price: £199,950**

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RHOSYGADFA, NR. GOBOWEN

Most attractive award winning barn conversion

- Rural Location
- Wealth of period features
- O/F C/H D/G
- 3 Reception Rooms
- 4 Beds
- 2 Bathrooms
- Modernised Cottage
- 5 Acres

JJD716

GUIDE £597,500

ST. MARTINS, NR. OSWESTRY

Semi-det. house with former shop on good size corner plot

- G/F C/H
- D/G
- Sitting room
- Breakfast kitchen
- 3 beds
- Former shop with office and store
- Ample car parking
- Large Garage

JJD733

£154,750

LLANGEDWYN, NR. OSWESTRY

Period country property in secluded position with grass paddock, 2 orchards & scheduled Motte-and-Bailey castle

- 3 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Office
- Utility/Store
- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms
- Outstanding Views

JJD738

£380,000

BLODWEL BANK, TREFLACH

Large family house with south facing aspect and views down the Tanat Valley.

- O/F C/H, D/G
- Breakfast Kitchen
- 4 Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- 5 Bedrooms
- En-Suite
- 4 Large garage
- Good sized garden

JJD739

£335,000

WELSH FRANKTON, NR. ELLESMERE

Detached Country House

- NO CHAIN
- Secondary D/G
- 2 Reception rooms
- Conservatory (2007)
- Office
- 3 Beds
- 2 Double garages
- Field (approx one acre) with vehicle access

JJD740

GUIDE PRICE £375,000

WHITTINGTON

Spacious detached family house in quiet cul-de-sac

- Lounge
- Conservatory
- Well eqipped modern fitted kitchen
- 4 Beds
- En-suite
- Single Garage

JJD750

£292,000

DOLYWERN, GLYN CEIRIOG

Well appointed rural bungalow

- Reception Hall
- Lounge
- Mod fitted breakfast kitchen
- 2 Beds
- Bath
- O/F C/H Upvc D/G
- Garage/parking

JJD755

£199,950

RUYTON XI TOWNS

Double fronted Victorian Village Cottage requiring further improvement

- G/F C/H, Upvc D/G
- Sitting room
- Dining Room
- 2 Beds
- Car parking
- Large rear garden

JJD758

£125,000

OSWESTRY

Det. house with purpose built granny annex close to town shops

- D/G C/H
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Study & Laundry
- 3 Bedrooms
- Double Garage
- Ground Floor Annex
- Large Garden

JJD762

£280,000

WEST FELTON

Three Bedroomed Semi-detached Period House on edge of village location.

- O/F C/H
- Large Living/Dining Room
- Conservatory
- Sitting Room
- Jack & Jill Bathroom
- Garaging & Workshop

JJD766

£230,000

OSWESTRY

Late Victorian five bedroomed period house retaining much of period features

- G/F C/H
- Entrance hall
- Sitting room
- Dining room
- Good sized kitchen & pantry
- Bathroom & Separate toilet
- Large garden

JJD774

£365,000

WHITTINGTON, NR. OSWESTRY

Well appointed four bedroomed detached house

- G/F C/H, D/G
- Entrance porch
- Kitchen diner
- Bathroom & cloakroom
- Garage
- 4 Attractive rear gardens

JJD783

£199,950

OSWESTRY (01691) 653437 - (01691) 680212

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www.struttandparker.com

Market Drayton | Shropshire

Market Drayton 4 miles | Shrewsbury 16.5 miles

An Outstanding Equestrian Estate

6 Furlong gallop | 3 Furlong circular canter | 3 Yards | 64 Stables Lunge ring | 14 Horse covered walker | 4 Houses | 4 Flats | Office Block | JSA Jackson Equestrian

Guide price £3,750,000 **About 243 acres (98 hectares)**

Shrewsbury 01743 284200 claire.hall@struttandparker.com

Wem | Shropshire

Shrewsbury 11 miles | Crewe 23 miles

An exceptional, historic town house with superb walled gardens surrounding an ancient monument

3 Reception rooms | Kitchen/breakfast room | Utility room | Pantry Cloakroom | Play room/games room | 6 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms Family room/bedroom 7 | Store room Cellar Parking | Outbuildings

Guide price £499,995 **About 0.9 acres**

Shrewsbury 01743 284200 pip.wilson@struttandparker.com

Childs Ercall I Shropshire

Shrewsbury 16 miles I Newport 7 miles

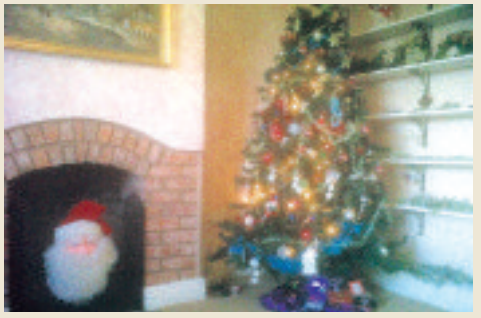
A well positioned Old Vicarage in the heart of Childs Ercall with land.

2 Reception rooms | 4 Bedrooms | Bathroom | Garden Private Parking | Outbuildings

★★★Further land available and potential building plots★★★

Guide price £499,000 **About 1.6 Acres**

Shrewsbury 01743 284200 sarah.miller@struttandparker.com



Cardeston I Shropshire

Shrewsbury 7 miles I Welshpool 13 miles

A classic Georgian Grade II listed farmhouse with land and views of the surrounding countryside

2 Reception rooms I Kitchen/breakfast room I Utility room I Cellar 4 Bedrooms I 3 Bathrooms I Playroom/attic room I Garden I Barn 2 Paddocks

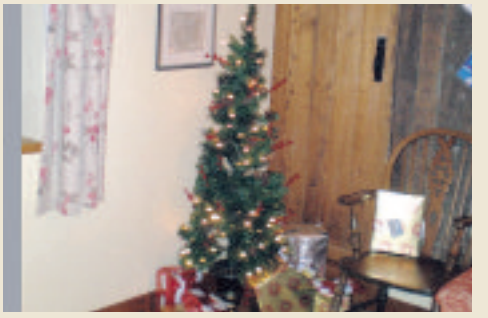
Guide price £495,000 **About 4.8 acres**

Shrewsbury 01743 284200 david.henderson@struttandparker.com

O Christmas Tree
Anon

O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
Thy leaves are so unchanging;
O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
Thy leaves are so unchanging;
Not only green when summer's here,
But also when 'tis cold and drear.
O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
Thy leaves are so unchanging!

O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
Much pleasure thou can'st give me;
O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
Much pleasure thou can'st give me;
How often has the Christmas tree
Afforded me the greatest glee!
O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
Much pleasure thou can'st give me.



Montgomery | Powys

Montgomery 3.2 miles | Shrewsbury 25 miles

A fantastically positioned Welsh Farmhouse with a superb range of outbuildings and stunning views.

2 Reception rooms | Kitchen/breakfast room | Utility room Cloakroom | Conservatory | 4 Bedrooms | Family bathroom Barn | Dutch barn | Pole Barn | Piggery | Chicken shed

Guide price £490,000 **Approx. 3.3 acres**

Shrewsbury 01743 284200 pip.wilson@struttandparker.com

Newport | Shropshire

Telford 9.6 miles | Shrewsbury 20.7 miles

A handsome semi-detached Victorian town house with a double garage and landscaped garden

2 Reception rooms | Kitchen/breakfast room | Utility room Cloakroom | 4 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms | Office | Loft store Cellar | Garden | Double garage | Parking

Guide price £425,000

Shrewsbury 01743 284200 pip.wilson@struttandparker.com

St Martins | Shropshire

Shrewsbury 28 miles I Chester 21 miles,

A stunning detached barn conversion with open countryside views

3 Reception rooms | Breakfast kitchen | 4 Bedrooms 3 Bathrooms I Garage | Garden

Guide price £385,000

Shrewsbury 01743 284200 sarah.williams@struttandparker.com

Cherrington | Shropshire

Newport 6 miles I Shrewsbury 14 miles

An attractive and beautifully presented four bedroom barn conversion

2 Reception rooms | Kitchen/breakfast room | Utility room Boot room | Cloakroom I 4 Bedrooms | Family bathroom 2 En suite bath/shower rooms | Garden

Guide price £375,000

Shrewsbury 01743 284200 pip.wilson@struttandparker.com

At Strutt & Parker, we know the importance of teamwork and experience gained through local knowledge

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51 offices across England and Scotland, including 10 offices in Central London

STRUTT & PARKER

Merry Christmas!

from Strutt & Parker

aged 125 years

Annabel, aged 11, Northumberland

Annabel won our annual Christmas card schools competition and her school received £500. For every entry we received we donated £1 to UK Youth.

We have raised £3,063 in this way and, by adding this to our previous fundraising total, we have now raised over £21,000 for the charity.

Go to struttandparker.com/christmasappeal to view the regional winners and to make a donation.

ukyouth Positive About Youth

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www.pooks.co.uk

POOKS

Shrewsbury's Largest Residential Lettings Agent

NEW

Brackley Drive, The Mount

Modern, Detached Four Bedroom House
Hall, Sitting Room with Gas Fire, Utility
Dining Room with French Doors
Breakfast Kitchen including White Goods
Master Bedroom, En-Suite & Walk-in Wardrobe
Three Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
Front & Rear Gardens. Driveway and Garage

£1,250 pcm

NEW

David Avenue, Pontesbury

Spacious Detached Five Bedroom Dormer Bungalow
Quiet No Through Side Road in the Popular Village
Porch, Entrance Hall, Living Room, Garden Room
Breakfast Kitchen with Rangemaster, Fridge / Freezer
Large Dining Area with French Doors to Garden, Utility
Master Bedroom with Dressing Room and En-Suite
Four Further Bedrooms, Three Further Bathrooms

£995 pcm

NEW

Copthorne Park, Shrewsbury

Furnished Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
Desirable Residential Neighbourhood Close to RSH
Hall, WC, Living Room incl Plasma TV, Utility
Large Breakfast Kitchen, Dining Area & Conservatory
Master Bedroom with Built in Wardrobes
Double Bedroom, Single Bedroom, Family Bathroom
Study Room, GCH, Driveway, Garage, Rear Garden.

£895 pcm

NEW

Lapwood Drive, Herongate

Modern Four Bedroom Detached House
Lobby, Living Room, Dining Room
Breakfast Kitchen with White Goods
Spacious Master Bedroom with En-Suite
2 Double Bedrooms, 1 Single Bedroom
Family Bathroom with Shower
Garden incl Shed, Garage, Driveway

£850 pcm

NEW

Belle Vue Road, Shrewsbury

Renovated Three/Four Bedroom Mews House
New Kitchen with White Goods and Tiled Floor
Living Room with Oak Floor and Door to Rear
Downstairs WC, Master Bedroom with En-Suite
Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
Single Bedroom/Study/Dressing Room
South Facing Garden Area, GCH, Driveway

£800 pcm

NEW

Prescott Court, Baschurch

Immaculate Four Bedroom Detached House
Popular Village of Baschurch
Breakfast Kitchen with White Goods, Dining Area,
Utility, Large Living Room with Electric Fire, WC
Four Double Bedrooms all with Built in Wardrobes
En-Suite Shower Room, Family Bathroom
Gas Central Heating, Full Double Glazing

£795 pcm

NEW

Cantlop, Cross Houses

Beautifully Converted Three Bedroom Barn
Kitchen including White Goods
Dining Room, Utility, Downstairs WC
Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room
Double Bedroom, Double Bedroom with Wardrobe
Family Bathroom, Carpets & Curtains, Ample Parking
Four Stables, Lawned Front Garden & Orchard.

£795 pcm

NEW

Meole Rise, Off Hereford Road

Three Bed Semi Detached House
Located in a Quiet Cul-de-Sac
Hall, Sitting Room, Kitchen incl. Cooker
Dining Room with Doors to Rear Garden
Utility including Fridge/Freezer
Bathroom with Shower
Driveway Parking

£695 pcm

NEW

Long Meadow, Bayston Hill

Beautiful & Extended Semi Detached House
Redecorated Throughout
TV Room, Open Plan Kitchen with Appliances
Dining and Living Area with Doors to Rear Garden
Utility, WC, Two Double Bedrooms and One Single
Luxury Bathroom including Shower
Full Double Glazing, GCH, Driveway Parking

£695 pcm

NEW

Benbow Quay, Shrewsbury

Attractive Mews House with Garage
Walking Distance to Town and Train Station
Entrance Hall, Living Room, Downstairs WC
Kitchen including Full Range of White Goods
Stairs Leading to Bathroom with Shower
Two Double Bedrooms (One with Wardrobes)
Single Garage. Lock up for Bicycles.

£695 pcm

NEW

Bishop Street, Cherry Orchard

Large Victorian Three Bedroom Mid Terrace
Highly Sort After Residential Area of Cherry Orchard
Entrance Hall, Front Living Room, Dining Room
New Kitchen with White Goods
Three Double Bedrooms with Built in Wardrobes
New Bathroom with Shower
Medium Sized Garden with Garage to the Rear

£695 pcm

NEW

St. Anthony's Road, Radbrook Green

Refurbished 3 Bed Semi Detached House
Entrance Hall, Large Living Area
Modern Kitchen with White Goods, Utility
Two Double Bedrooms and One Single
Family Bathroom with Shower
Front & Rear Garden
Garage, Decking & Shed

£695 pcm

NEW

Lythwood Road, Bayston Hill

Immaculate Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
Popular Village a Short Distance from Shrewsbury
Entrance Hall, Living Room, Dining Room
Recently Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Bathroom
Master Bedroom, Double Bedroom, Single Bedroom
Single Garage, Well Maintained Lawned Gardens
Paved Driveway. Full Double Glazing, GCH

£675 pcm

NEW

Stokesay Avenue, Heath Farm

Good Sized Four Bedroom Detached House
Recently Redecorated Throughout
Entrance Vestibule, Hall, Spacious Lounge
Large Dining Room, Kitchen including Cooker
Three Double Bedrooms, Large Single Bedroom
Bathroom with Shower, Full Double Glazing
New GCH, Garage, Driveway Parking

£675 pcm

NEW

St Julians Mews, Town Centre

New Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
Edge of Quarry Park, Town Centre Location
Hall, Large Living Room with Karndean Floor
Kitchen with White Goods & Tiled Floor
Two Double Bedrooms with Built in Wardrobes
En-Suite Shower Room, Bathroom with Shower
Secure Allocated Parking Space

£650 pcm

NEW

Little Harlescott Lane

Spacious Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
Entrance Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, WC
Breakfast Kitchen including White Goods, Utility
Master Bedroom with Built in Wardrobes
Double Bedroom with Built in Wardrobe
Single Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower
Single Garage, Driveway Parking for Three Cars

£645 pcm

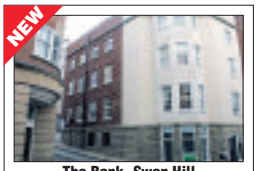
NEW

Betton Street, Belle Vue

New Build High Specification End Terraced House
Kitchen with Tiled Floor and Built In Appliances
Downstairs WC, Understairs Storage, Living Room
Two Double Bedrooms with Wardrobes, Bathroom
Fully Boarded Roof Space with Loft Ladder
Full Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating
York Stone Patio Garden, Driveway Parking.

£625 pcm

NEW



The Bank, Swan Hill

Two Bedroom Town Centre Apartment
Third Floor with Lift Access
Sought After Location
Living Room, Kitchen, GCH
Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower
Secure Parking Space

£625 pcm

NEW

Ash Grove, Pontesbury

Modern Three Bedroom Semi-Detached House
Unfurnished
Entrance Hall, Sitting Room, Study, Kitchen
Two Double Bedrooms, One Single Bedroom
Bathroom with Shower, Utility Room
Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking

£600 pcm

NEW

Nightingale Court, Baschurch

New Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
Landmark Development in the Heart of Baschurch
Spacious Private Landing, Living Room
High Spec Kitchen with Integrated White Goods
Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room
Double Bedroom, Second Bathroom
Separate WC, GCH, Parking for Two Cars

£595 pcm

Sutton Bridge, Shrewsbury

New Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
Quiet Residential Development Close to Town
Entrance Hall, Storage Cupboard,
Spacious Living Room, Two Double Bedrooms
Breakfast Kitchen including White Goods, Dining Area
Bathroom including Shower, Car Parking Space
Bike Store, Clothes Drying Area, Bin Store.

£550 pcm

NEW

Cornmill Square, Shrewsbury

Executive Ground Floor Apartment
Two Double Bedrooms
Living Room, Dining Area
Kitchen including White Goods
Bathroom with Shower
French Door to Rear Patio
Designated Parking Space

£550 pcm

NEW

Katesway, Herongate

Two Bedroom Semi Detached House
Porch, Living Room with Double Door
Breakfast Kitchen incl Oven and Gas Hob
Rear Door to Garden incl Patio and Shed
Master Bedroom incl Wardrobe and En-Suite
Single Bedroom, Shower Room. Driveway
GCH. Redecorated, New Flooring.

£550 pcm

NEW

Castle Street, Town Centre

Luxury 2nd Floor Town Centre Apartment
Communal Entrance Hall and Stairwell
Large Double Bedroom with En-Suite & Wardrobes
Large Living Room, Kitchen with White Goods
Separate Study/Double Bedroom with WC

£525 pcm

NEW

Haycock House, Cross Houses

Modern Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
Excellent Transport Links with Country Views
Unfurnished, Communal Entrance, Hall
Bathroom with Shower, Two Double Bedrooms
Kitchen including White Goods, Living Area
Dining Area, Carpets & Curtains
Allocated Parking Space

£500 pcm

NEW

Churchill Road, Copthorne

Modern End Terrace House in Popular Area
Sitting Room with Gas Fire, Dining Area
Kitchen incl Fridge, Cooker, Washing Machine
Double Bedroom with Wardrobe & En Suite
Large Store Cupboard. Carpets & Curtains
Rear Garden with Shed. Parking Space.

£440 pcm

NEW

Scotts Mansions, Claremont Hill

Spacious One Bedroom Second Floor Flat
Sort After Side Street Near Quarry Park
Lovely Views of the Town Centre,
Unfurnished
Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen
Double Bedroom, Bathroom

£425 pcm

NEW

Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury

Recently Refurbished First Floor Flat
Hall, Living Room, Kitchen with Cooker
One Double Bedroom
Recently Fitted Bathroom with Shower
Gas CH. Carpets
One Parking Space, Communal Garden

£420 pcm

NEW

Foregate Court, Abbey Foregate

Second Floor Flat close to Town Centre
Communal Hall, Entrance Hall
Living Room with Kitchen incl. White Goods
Bathroom , Double Bedroom with Wardrobe
Carpets & Curtains, Gas Central Heating
Communal Utility in Basement
Allocated Parking

£395 pcm

NEW

Netherway, Radbrook Green

Refurbished Modern First Floor Flat
Entrance, Sitting Room with Dining Area
Kitchen Area, Bathroom with Shower
Double Bedroom with Wardrobe
Carpets and Curtains
Parking Space.

£330 pcm

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RICS

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HOLLAND BROADBRIDGE

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HOLLAND BROADBRIDGE TENANTS INFORMATION

- CREDIT CHECK £20 PER APPLICANT
- TENANCY AGREEMENT FEE £175 (INC VAT)
- DEPOSITS = 1 MONTHS RENT + £100 (UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE)

★★★ NO FURTHER FEES★★★

ALLERTON ROAD SUNDORNE

NEW

- A recently renovated 3 bedroom end of terraced property
- Ent hall, living room with fire, dining room, newly fitted kitchen with hob/oven
- 2 double bedroom & 1 single bedroom, w.c., bathroom with shower
- Rear garden, GCH, driveway parkway for 2 cars

£650 pcm

BELGRAVIA COURT ABBEY FOREGATE

NEW

- A 1 bedroom 3rd floor apartment
- Ent hallway, open plan living room/kitchen with appliances
- Double bedroom, bathroom with shower, electric heating, allocated parking
- ★★PART FURNISHED★★

£510 pcm

SOUTHPARK ABBEY FOREGATE

NEW

- A 2nd floor double room within a shared 4 bedroom town house
- Sitting room with wood burner, dining room, kitchen with cooker
- Airing cupboard/ office, luxury bathroom with shower
- GCH, Courtyard garden- Rent includes Council tax & Water rates

£410 pcm

MILLENNIUM GARDENS RACECOURSE CRESCENT

NEW

- A well presented 1st floor 2 bed apartment
- Living room, kitchen with oven & hob
- 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower
- Electric heating, allocated parking
- Newly painted throughout

£495 pcm

SOUTHPARK ABBEY FOREGATE

NEW

- A 1st floor FURNISHED double bedroom within a shared 4 bedroom town house
- Sitting room with wood burner, dining room, kitchen with cooker
- Airing cupboard/ office, luxury bathroom with shower
- GCH, Courtyard garden- Rent includes Council tax & Water rates

£430 pcm

NEW STREET FRANKWELL

- A 3-bedroom 3-storey town house
- Ent hall, Living room with electric fire, kitchen with cooker
- Bedroom & bathroom with shower on 2nd floor, 2 further bedrooms on 3rd floor
- Electric heating, rear garden & patio

£500 pcm

KNOWSLEY DRIVE GAINS PARK

- A well presented two bedroom semi detached property close to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.
- Entrance hallway, kitchen with gas cooker, living room with gas fire, two double bedrooms, bathroom with electric shower
- Rear garden with lawn and patio, gas central heating and driveway

£540 pcm

BARNYARD CLOSE WESTBURY

- An exceptionally well presented 4 bed detached
- Ent hall, living room, dining room, kitchen/ breakfast room with appliances, downstairs W.C, utility room
- Master bedroom with ensuite shower room, 2 double bedrooms, 1 further single bedroom
- Dble garage & driveway, GCH, double glazed, front & rear gardens

£850 pcm

ROMAN ROAD SHREWSBURY

- A refurbished 4 bedroom semi-detached house
- Ent hall,open plan living room/ breakfast/ kitchen with rayburn, dining room, a master bedroom with an ensuite and 3 further double bedrooms, bathroom
- Newly fitted boiler, front driveway, garage & large rear garden

£1,475 pcm

NORTHUMBERLAND PLACE GREENFIELD

- A well presented 2 bedroom end of terraced house within a quiet cul-de-sac near to town centre.
- Entrance hallway, living room with patio doors onto the garden, kitchen with cooker
- Double bedroom, single bedroom, bathroom with shower
- Rear garden, GCH & allocated parking

£525 pcm

ELLESMERE ROAD SHREWSBURY

- A newly renovated 2 bedroom ground floor apartment
- Living room, newly fitted breakfast kitchen
- 2 double bedrooms, luxury shower room
- GCH, double glazing & on street parking
- Available NOW

£550 pcm

BARKSTONE DIRVE HERONGATE

- A 2 bedroom mid terraced property
- Ent hall, living room, modern kitchen/diner
- 2 Double bedrooms, bathroom with electric shower
- Rear garden, GCH and parking

£550 pcm

ABBEY FOREGATE SHREWSBURY

- A 17th Century 2 bedroom cottage
- Ent hall, living room with fire place, breakfast kitchen with cooker, washing machine & fridge
- Double bedroom with ensuite shower room, 2nd double bedroom with ensuite bathroom
- GCH, rear garden & on street parking

£550 pcm

SUTTON GROVE SUTTON FARM

- A recently decorated and carpeted 3 bedroom semi-detached house
- Ent hall, living room, dining room, newly fitted kitchen with built-in oven & hob
- Three good sized bedrooms, newly fitted bathroom with separate shower
- GCH, front & rear gardens, driveway with parking

£675 pcm

VICTORIA TERRACE SHREWSBURY

- A Spacious 2 bedroom terraced house with driveway parking for 2 cars
- Living room with French doors to rear courtyard
- Dining room, refitted kitchen with cooker, 2 double bedrooms, new bathroom with shower
- GCH, paved rear garden

£575 pcm

CRUCKTON CLOSE COPTHORNE

- A spacious 3 bed semi detached property within walking distance of the RSH
- Ent hall, Living room, Open plan kitchen/ diner with appliances, utility, downstairs w.c & shower
- 2 dble bedrooms, 1 good sized single, spacious bathroom
- Garage, Driveway, Side garden

£695 pcm

HAZELDENE COURT COLEHAM

- A 1 bedroom 1st floor retirement apartment with house manager
- Hallway, living room, kitchen with electric oven
- Double bedroom with built in wardrobe, shower room
- Electric heating, double glazing, close to town centre
- ★★Suitable for the over 60 s★★

£550 pcm

DARWIN STREET MOUNTFIELDS

- An attractive 2 bedroom mid terraced house within walking distance of the town centre
- Entrance hallway, living room with gas fire, dining room with gas fire, kitchen
- 2 double bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom with shower
- Front paved garden, attractive rear courtyard.

£575 pcm

BENBOW QUAY COTON HILL

- A well presented 2 bedroom ground floor apartment within walking distance of the train station town and town centre.
- Security intercom entry system, entrance hallway, living room/dining room, kitchen with appliances
- 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower,
- Electric heating & allocated parking.

£600 pcm

LANCASTER ROAD SHREWSBURY

- A spacious 3 bed semi detached property
- Ent hallway, Living room, Dining room/kitchen with cooker/fridge-freezer
- 2 dble bedrooms, 1 single, bathroom with shower, separate W.C.
- GCH, front & rear gardens, driveway and garage

£650 pcm

PENGWERN COURT LONGDEN ROAD

- A two bedroom ground floor retirement property within walking distance of town centre.
- Ent hall, sitting room with fire place, kitchen with oven & hob, fridge/freezer, private patio
- Communal residents lounge & communal laundry facilities
- ★★OVER 60s ONLY★★

£650 pcm

COPTHORNE GATE COPTHORNE ROAD

- A modern 2 bedroom 1st floor apartment
- Ent hallway, large living room diner, kitchen/ breakfast room with built-oven & hob/fridge freezer/washer drier
- 2 bedrooms both with built in wardrobes, bathroom with shower
- Electric heating, communal gardens & allocated parking

£595 pcm

WEST HOPE LYTH BANK

- An extremely well presented five bed detached property located in popular area
- Ent hall, living room, dining room, breakfast kitchen with dble oven, 2 dble bedrooms refitted showeroom
- 3 further dble bedrooms, w.c
- Drive & garage, GCH, dble glazed

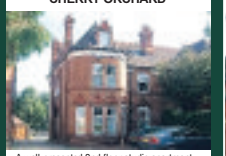
£995 pcm

ST GEORGES FRANKWELL

- A 3 bedroom, 3 storey terraced town house
- Ent hallway, living room, kitchen/breakfast room with oven & hob
- Double bedroom & bathroom with shower to 1st floor, Double & single bedroom to 2nd floor
- Rear courtyard, GCH & allocated parking space
- Close to town centre

£595 pcm

ABBEY GARDENS CHERRY ORCHARD



- A well-presented 2nd floor studio apartment conveniently located within walking distance of the town centre
- Ent hall, living/bedroom. Kitchen with built-in oven & hob/fridge, shower room, allocated parking
- ★Rent includes water rate★

£325 pcm

TANKERVILLE STREET SHREWSBURY

- A 2 bedroom end of terraced house situated within walking distance of the town centre
- Ent hall, living room with fire, dining room, newly fitted kitchen with cooker
- 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower
- GCH, rear garden & on street parking

£550 pcm

BICTON LANE BICTON

- A newly decorated 3 bedroom property with 2 reception rooms
- Ent hall, newly fitted kitchen with electric oven & hob
- 2 double bedrooms & 1 single bedroom, newly carpeted, w.c, bathroom with shower
- Rear garden, propane gas central heating & parking for 2 cars

£625 pcm

BROOK ROAD ABBEY FOREGATE

- A newly decorated 2 bedroom period terraced property
- Living room, dining room, kitchen with electric oven & hob/fridge
- Bathroom with electric shower, 2 double bedrooms
- Courtyard, on street parking, GCH & feature fire place
- Close to town centre

£550 pcm

ALFORD GARDENS MYDDLE

- A 4 bedroom barn conversion
- Ent Hall, living room, dining room/kitchen with oven & hob, dishwasher & fridge
- 3 Double bedrooms & 1 single bedroom, master bedroom with ensuite, large bathroom with separate shower
- GCH, garage, front & rear gardens, parking
- ★★PETS CONSIDERED★★

£795 pcm

SHARED ACCOMMODATION

Westminster Close. Shrewsbury	FURNISHED RENT INC C.TAX/ UTILITY BILLS	£310pcm
Mytton Oak Road	FURNISHED RENT INC C. TAX/ UTILITY BILLS	£340pcm
Bryn Road, Shrewsbury	FURNISHED RENT INC C.TAX/UTILITY BILLS	£375pcm
Southpark, Abbey Foregate	FURNISHED RENT INC C,TAX & WATER	£410pcm
Southpark, Abbey Foregate	FURNISHED RENT INC C,TAX & WATER	£430pcm

ONE BEDROOM

The Ridings, Gains Park		£325 PCM
Abbey Gardens, Cherry Orchard	RENT INC WATER RATES	£325pcm
Abbey Gardens, Cherry Orchard	RENT INC WATER RATES	£325pcm
Abbey Gardens, Cherry Orchard	LET	£360pcm
The Old Forge, Netley Hall	FURNISHED	£400pcm
Lambourn Drive, Bicton Heath	NEWLY DECORATED	£415pcm
Benbow Quay, Shrewsbury	LET	£485pcm
Upper Blackfriars, St Mary's Water Lane		£495pcm
NEW Belgravia Court, Abbey Foregate	FURNISHED	£510pcm
Hazeldene Court, Coleham	RETIREMENT PROPERTY	£550pcm

TWO BEDROOM

Coton Manor, Berwick Road		£475pcm
NEW Millennium Gardens, Monkmoor		£495pcm
College Hill, Shrewsbury		£495pcm
Glendower Court, Greenfields	LET	£500pcm
Anglers Cottage, Dorrington	FURNISHED LET	£500pcm
Gains Avenue, Bicton Heath		£510pcm
Churchill Road, Mytton Oak Farm	WITH GARAGE	£510pcm
John Street, Castlefields	LET	£520pcm
Elm Street, Greenfields	LET	£525pcm
Northumberland Place, Greenfields		£525pcm
Millennium Gardens, Monkmoor		£525pcm
Ladycroft Close, Radbrook Green	LET	£525pcm
Knowsley Drive, Shrewsbury		£540pcm
Barkstone Drive, Herongate		£550pcm
Brook Road, Abbey Foregate		£550pcm
Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury		£550pcm
Whitchurch Road, Shrewsbury	LET	£550pcm
Cunningham Way, Shrewsbury	LET	£550pcm
Tankerville Street, Cherry Orchard		£550pcm
Hill Farm, Crewe Green	RENT INC WATER RATES	£550pcm
Victoria Terrace, Shrewsbury	WITH PARKING	£575pcm
Sutton Road, Sutton Farm	BUNGALOW LET	£575pcm
Darwin Street, Mountfields		£575pcm
Copthorne Gate, Copthorne		£595pcm
Fish Street, Shrewsbury		£595pcm
Benbow Quay, Coton Hill	GROUND FLOOR	£600pcm
Pengwern Court, Shrewsbury	OVER 60s ONLY	£650pcm
Clements Barn, Hinton		£685pcm

THREE BEDROOM

NEW New Street, Frankwell		£500pcm
Orchard Drive, Minsterly		£550pcm
Ellesmere Road, Shrewsbury		£575pcm
Scott Street,Belle Vue	LET	£595pcm
St Georges, Frankwell		£595pcm
Hebden Grove, Bowbrook		£595pcm
Beeches Road, Bayston Hill		£600pcm
Bicton Lane, Bicton		£625pcm
Hamilton Drive, Telford Estate	LET	£625pcm
Lancaster Road, Shrewsbury		£650pcm
NEW Allerton Road, Sundorne		£650pcm
Sutton Grove, Sutton Farm		£675pcm
Prescott Court, Baschurch		£695pcm
Keld, Annscroft		£675pcm
Cruckton Close, Copthorne		£695pcm
Redlands, Bomere Heath	LET	£700pcm
Pengrove, Kingslands		£765pcm

FOUR BEDROOMS +

Alford Gardens, Myddle		£795pcm
High View, Pontesbury	LET	£800pcm
Barnyard Close, Westbury		£850pcm
The Sycamores, Longden		£875pcm
The Old Smithy, Nesscliffe		£975pcm
Westhope, Lyth Bank		£995pcm
Corfield House, Nesscliffe		£1025pcm
Drifthouse, Hinton	UNDER APPLICATION	£1050pcm
Roman Road, Shrewsbury		£1475pcm
Hinton Paddock, Hinton	FURNISHED	£2250pcm

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High Street
- End terrace house
- Three bedrooms
- Garden ▪Parking

£550 pcm

Shrewsbury

Monkmoor Road
- Semi-detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Garden ▪Garage ▪Parking

£595 pcm

Shrewsbury

Belle Vue
- First floor apartment
- Two bedrooms
- Parking space

£550 pcm

Shrewsbury

Tilbrook Drive
- Semi-detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Garden ▪Garage ▪Parking

£595 pcm

Shrewsbury

Glamis
- Spacious bungalow
- Three double bedrooms
- Garden ▪Garage ▪Parking

£675 pcm

Ellesmere

Stanham Drive
- Detached bungalow
- Three bedrooms
- Garden ▪Double garage & parking

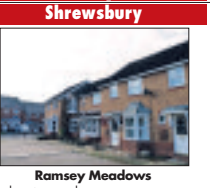
£725 pcm

Shawbury

River Gardens
- Detached three bedroom house
- Secure garden
- Double garage & parking

£750 pcm

Shrewsbury



Ramsey Meadows
- Modern terrace house
- Three bedrooms
- Garden

£625 pcm

Shrewsbury

Brougham Square
- Terrace house
- Two bedrooms
- Parking

£475 pcm

Dorrington

Ragleth Barn
- Fully furnished barn conversion
- Two double bedrooms
- Courtyard & Parking

£800 pcm

Wem

The Gate House
- Detached Two bedroom
- Garden
- Parking

£575 pcm

Shrewsbury

Thornton Road
- Semi-detached house
- Three bedrooms ▪Garden
- Garage ▪Parking

£625 pcm

Shawbury

Millbrook Drive
- Semi-detached house
- Two bedrooms
- Garden ▪Parking

£525 pcm

Betton Strange

The Stables
- Barn conversion
- Three bedrooms
- Patio area ▪Two parking spaces

£710 pcm

Kinley

Weavers Thatch
- Three bedroom country cottage
- Separate annexe
- Large garden

£1,500 pcm

Llansantffraid

Ffinant House
- Five bedroom detached house
- Garden, stream, double garage
- Parking for up to six cars

£1,300 pcm

Shrewsbury

Falcons Way
- Room available
- Communal living room
- Parking

£395 pcm

Shrewsbury

Windermere Road
- Three bed end terrace house
- Secure rear garden
- Garage & parking

£550 pcm

Shrewsbury

Conway Drive
- Three bedroom house
- Garden
- Parking

£595 pcm

Wem

Castle Court
- Terrace
- Two bedroom
- Allocated Parking

£395 pcm

Shrewsbury

Quinton Close
- Detached house
- Four bedrooms
- Garden ▪Garage ▪Parking ▪En suite

£850 pcm

Wem

Station Road
- Semi-detached house
- Two double bedrooms & box room
- Garden & garage

£575 pcm

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CALA HOMES

Wiki page will help in battle for school

SUPPORTERS OF a closure-threatened school on the Shropshire/Powys border have created a Wikipedia page as part of a bid to raise the profile of a campaign to save it.

Jude Robinson, a parent from Llangedwyn Primary School, contacted bosses from the internet site to place it on the list.

She has already orchestrated appeals on the school's website, Facebook and Twitter.

She said her aim is to get the school on the first page of Google, the internet search engine, so everyone in the UK will be able to find information about it.

Consultation

Powys County Council has started consultation on closing the village school as part of a shake-up of primary school education in the area.

But governors at the school said closing it would have a terrible effect on the village.

Mrs Robinson said being on Wikipedia could be a way showing how important the school was to the supporters and those in the village.

She said: "It is all about having and online presence.

"Being on the Wikipedia page means we could be there forever in cyberspace.

"My aim, when I started a couple of years ago, was to get on page one of Google and my aim is to get on to that page when people search for schools in Mid-Wales and Powys."

Fundraising shop due to open at hospital foyer

A £40,000 League of Friends' shop will take pride of place at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital's new main entrance, health bosses have revealed.

by Graham Breeze

The shop is currently based on the hospital's main corridor but will be moved to a prime site in the new entrance due to open in the spring as part of a major redevelopment.

The league will also operate a new coffee shop as part of the main entrance development.

Speaking at a meeting of the league's executive committee David James, director of operations and business development, said the league shop would be part of a line of retail premises in the hospital including Ableworld and the Post Office. He said the new premises would be bigger than the current shop and have an open aspect onto the main entrance through which the majority of patients would pass.

He said the cost of fitting out the shop would fall to the league and would be in the region of £30,000 to £40,000 plus VAT.

The old coffee shop closed last year to make way for the new building work.

Chairman of the league Tricia Norris, said: "We are all very excited about the new developments.

"We are working closely with hospital management and the building contractors to ensure that we will be able to deliver a first class experience for our customers when the new entrance opens in the spring.

"Our coffee shop volunteers have had to stand down this year while building has been going on.

"We really appreciate their patience and their continuing commitment to the league and to the hospital.

"We are looking forward to the opening and to recreating our signature friendly atmosphere in the new coffee shop."

The old coffee shop raised £275,000 for group funds since it opened in 1997.

The money has been used to support a wide variety of projects including a £400,000 donation the league made towards the hospital's new state of the art MRI scanner.

Those little angels

Children at Ruyton XI Towns Pre-school try on costumes for the dress rehearsal for their nativity play. Pictured are angels Lucy Hinks, Ellie Gittens and Sophie Guppy, all aged three.

Lifesaving team doubles in size but still needs more volunteers

A TEAM OF lifesavers who are often the first on the scene at major road crashes and incidents in North Shropshire have made a plea for more volunteers to join them.

Members of Oswestry and district community first responder group could almost double in size next year following a recent successful recruitment drive.

Vehicles

The group has also acquired more vehicles to help it carry out its life-saving work.

But organisers say there is still a need for more volunteers to come forward to ensure their vital work continues. Already 12-strong, a further 10 people have volunteered and will be trained by West Midlands Ambulance Service in the New Year.

The group has also recently bought two cars and the vehicles were formerly used as rapid response vehicles by West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Scheme co-ordinator Nigel Keighley said: "We are still looking for more volunteers especially as we now have two cars and, with a bit of luck, a third car for the Ellesmere area as well, and that's where we really need some people to be pulled in.

"So any volunteers there, please get in touch."

Community first responders are everyday members of the public, trained by West Midlands Ambulance Service in lifesaving skills and sent to medical emergencies by West Midlands Ambulance Service's control room while an ambulance is en-route.

For more details about the service, call Cliff Medlicott, community response manager for Shropshire on 07884 050877 or the community first responders' administration office on (01743) 273677.

NEWS in brief

Bad weather puts brake on ramblers

BAD weather stopped play for Oswestry's ramblers group last Thursday with the walk cancelled because of rain and high winds.

Almost continuous rain greeted Sunday's intrepid walkers with six tackling a tough walk at Bettws Cedewain.

Tomorrow there will be a five-mile moderate walk from the Sun Inn at Trevor with cars leaving the Lloyd Street car park in Oswestry at 10am.

There will be two walks on Sunday. The first one will be an eight-mile moderate walk from Montgomery.

Ramblers will leave Oswestry's Central car park at 9am. The second one will be a six-mile moderate walk on the Llanforda Estate near Oswestry leaving the Central car park at 10am.

Sculptor to visit hall in new year

OSWESTRY and District Society of Artists will start 2012 by following sculptor Paul Day as he creates the Battle of Britain monument at the Memorial Hall.

The society will also launch a newsletter in the new year with chairman Sue Humphries encouraging members to submit articles and pictures.

Tory group meal

THE Oswestry branch of the North Shropshire Conservative Association will hold its Christmas dinner tomorrow, Friday, at The Oswestrian pub. Tickets, costing £18.50, are available from Councillor Val Schofield on (01691) 662513.

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Young voices sing out for parish church carols service

by Graham Breeze

YOUNG voices from Oswestry and its surrounding villages filled the town's parish church with festive music during a Christmas carol service.

Staff and children from the Marches School were joined by choirs from five primary schools for a festive singing extravaganza at St Oswald's Church last Thursday.

The secondary school singers were joined by choirs from Morda, Gobowen, Our Lady's, Maesbury and Meadows primary schools.

Annual Christmas favourites such as 'O Come All Ye Faithful', 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' and 'In the Bleak Mid Winter' were performed during the evening.

And the celebrations were ended with enthusiastic renditions of 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas' and 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'.

Poignant

The festive celebrations were particularly poignant for children, parents and staff from Maesbury Primary School.

Last night's event will be the last time the school will take part in the carol service because it will close in the summer after being earmarked for closure by Shropshire Council.

Headteacher Rosemary Finnie said the whole Christmas season at the school had been a difficult time for many people.

She said: "It is very sad to think it would be the last time we will take part in the carol service because we have been going there for three years. The children have really enjoyed it and it has been wonderful to meet up with other schools and parents.

"We had our Christmas dinner this week and that was sad too. Even taking out the Christmas decorations this year has been poignant because in the back of your mind you know this will be the last time.

"But we will carry on until we close and we have lots of special events planned before the summer."

Our Lady Catholic Primary School pupils taking part in rehearsals for their Christmas carol service

Meadows Primary School pupils taking part in rehearsals for the Christmas Carol Service at St Oswald's Church in Oswestry

Store has voucher boost for youth club

YOUNGSTERS in Oswestry can look forward to a slap-up Christmas dinner and party this year thanks to the generosity of a town store.

Sainsbury's has donated £500 worth of vouchers to Oswestry Youth Cafe to ensure its Christmas party on December 17 is a big hit.

The vouchers, which will be spent on food and other goodies for the party, has come from Sainsbury's community grant scheme.

Store manager Steve Tranter said: "Our store is at the heart of the local community and it is important that we can do as much as we can to support it.

"When we heard about Oswestry Youth Cafe we were really pleased to be able to help out."

Liz Jones, from Oswestry Youth Cafe, said: "Sainsbury's have also been really supportive and these vouchers means our Christmas party will be a great event."

Appeal for old stamps

WITH CHRISTMAS just around the corner, fundraisers are calling for people's used stamps.

There is a collection point at The Old Post Office, 1 Canal View, in Chirk Bank.

The stamps will be used to help raise cash for the Shropshire Union Canal Society.

Collected stamps can be picked up by calling (01691) 773453.

Motorists warned of 7.5 tonne road limit

MOTORISTS are being warned a weight restriction will soon be imposed on a road bridge near Oswestry.

Llanymynech Station Bridge, which carries the B4398 Knockin to Llanymynech road over a disused railway line, will have a mandatory 7.5 tonne weight limit from December 20.

The weight limit is deemed necessary to ensure that the bridge, which has been assessed as being weak, can continue to remain open safely.

The proposed weight limit is intended as a temporary measure until the bridge can be strengthened.

Shropshire Council is currently liaising with the bridge's owner, BRB Residuary Ltd, to develop a strengthening scheme which it is hoped can be built during the 2012/13 financial year. But at present it is too early to confirm that this will be possible, according to council officials.

When the limit is in place, heavy vehicles will be diverted along the A483 and B4396 roads via Llynclys and Knockin. A 7.5 tonne weight limit will also apply to Plas Cerrig Lane from December 20.

Damage inquiry

POLICE in Welshpool are investigating criminal damage to two windows in New Street. The windows were smashed between 5pm on November 25 and 9am on November 28. Anyone who has any information should call police on 0845 3302000.

Online hit will help hospice raise cash

HUNDREDS of people have logged onto the internet to listen to a tune created especially to raise money for a Shropshire charity.

A 20-year-old Oswestrian and local musician Charlotte Edwards has recorded and produced a version of 'O Holy Night' to raise cash for Hope House Hospice.

The song can be downloaded from iTunes for 79p, with proceeds going to Hope House to help in its valuable work.

The call has now been made for people to download the tune and help raise as much cash as possible for the charity.

Charity

Councillor Keith Barrow, leader of Shropshire Council, said: "Christmas is a time for children and we really want to support our local charity Hope House with their fundraising this year.

"This is a charity that is particularly close to my heart; they provide such a vital service to children, young people and their families across Shropshire and Wales, and we must ensure that this continues."

Charlotte is studying music at Cardiff University. She sings in both the University Choir and University Chamber Choir.

She also plays in the Cardiff University Concert Orchestra, and has recently joined the BBC National Chorus of Wales.

Revamped pub opens for business with new name

AN OSWESTRY pub re-opened last Friday, with a new name after it was closed nearly a year ago.

The former Eagles pub, in Bailey Head, has undergone a major revamp ready for its official opening as Castle Tavern.

Julie Gibson, the new manager, has revealed the pub will be a traditional ale pub and will be renamed Castle Tavern.

The pub closed nearly a year ago after it was caught selling to under-age drinkers but owners Marstons have now recruited new management for the reopening.

by Graham Breeze

Paul Fitton, who has 18 years experience in the trade, has been helping with the revamp project and said they would be sticking strictly to the 'Challenge 25' policy and would not be allowing any under-age drinkers.

He said the pub has been given a new lease of life in a bid to move away from the past.

Mr Fitton said: "Hopefully we can take the pub back to the old times. It is not nice to see pubs shut, so it is nice of Marstons to have a vision to see it has got potential."

The former Eagles pub at the Bailey Head has re-opened as the Castle Tavern. Behind the bar is general manager Julie Gibson.

Actress Steadman discovers her roots

A STAR FROM TV sitcom Gavin and Stacey visited a small hamlet near Oswestry to discover her roots for a new documentary.

Alison Steadman, who plays the mother of Essex boy Gavin Shipman in the BBC series, visited Trefarclawdd near Trefonen to see a farmhouse where her great, great grandfather lived.

And the details of her journey were screened in the last episode of BBC Wales TV programme Coming Home on Wednesday night.

The programme showed the star taking a roller-coaster journey to trace her Welsh story which turned out to be more complicated than she originally thought.

Her great, great grandfather Maurice Evans was a coal miner and moved with Martha Price from the small hamlet of Trefarclawdd to Liverpool in 1838.

Alison Steadman

During the episode Ms Steadman was shown meeting the family who now live in the Trefarclawdd farmhouse.

She realised the area was on the border between England and Wales and searched to find out if her family actually were Welsh.

Ms Steadman won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Actress in 1992 for her role as Mari in The Rise and Fall of Little Voice.

Christmas gifts on sale

THE CHRISTMAS coffee morning in Dolanog, near Welshpool, will be held in the community centre on December 17 from 10am to 12.30pm.

Stalls will include Christmas gifts and table decorations, bric-a-brac, books, videos, CDs and DVDs, children's toys, cakes and produce, and a bumper raffle.

GIG GUIDE

By Chrissy Symmons

ROOTS music is coming to Oswestry in the form of the internationally acclaimed Willie and the Bandits.

Blues legend Joe Bonamassa enlisted the group's talents to open for him when he played in the world famous Olympia in Paris, they have also supported Status Quo and opened for John Butler Trio and now they will be gracing the stage at The Ironworks, in Church Street.

From 9pm the band will be performing to crowds with their music which gathers inspiration from the likes of 1970 greats such as Led Zeppelin, Santana and Pink Floyd.

To find out more about the band, why not pop along to the venue for the performance on Friday for only £5.

But if you are out and about and nearer to Welshpool, then head on down to the Lowfield Inn, in Marton.

From 8pm on the same Friday people will be treated to the sounds of Dangerous Dave.

For more details, call (01743) 891313.

Saturday night the joyous voices of Oswestry Choral Society will be floating through Christ Church, in Castle View Oswestry, when the singers perform a special Christmas concert.

Seasonal

The evening promises a mix of Little Jazz Mass and seasonal carols.

Tickets will be available on the door at £8 for adults and £2 for children. The event also has refreshments.

But if you would rather sit back and enjoy a movie, then you had best get along to the Attfield Theatre, in The Guildhall at Bailey Head.

From 7.30pm, Kinokulture will be screening the PG film Resistance starring Michael Sheen and Andrea Riseborough and adapted by poet and author Owen Sheers.

It's party time on Sunday night at The Ironworks as the Chicago Swing Katz hold a Christmas event a 1pm.

The afternoon promises to provide live jazz with plenty of festive cheer and delicious food served by the venue for just £4.

There will be a candlelit treat on Tuesday night when the Cantiones perform at Oswestry's Holy Trinity Church from 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £8 and under 16-year-olds are allowed in free.

Tickets include refreshments, so why not reserve one now by calling (01691) 658110 or buy one from the Heritage Centre, members of the choir, or on the door.

If you would like your event to feature in this column, then please e-mail me at *Csymmons@shropshirestar.co.uk*

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OR

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wrapped in a filo pastry with a balsamic syrup & rocket salad

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Homemade Tiramisu

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MARKETS

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Welshpool livestock market

Welshpool Livestock Sales report on a highly successful auction at Buttington Cross Welshpool on Monday.

OTMS (69)

A good entry of 69 Over Thirty Month Cattle sold very well to average overall at 121ppkg. An entry of 63 older cows sold to a top price of £1230.90 for a Limousin cow weighing 746kg from Francis & Partners Penllwyn. Other Limousin cows achieved £1099.56 from WRL Price & Co Pencwm and £1092.00 from I E Roberts & Son Maesdyfnant. Bulls topped at £1442.76 for a Charolais bull weighing 1093kg from JA Williams Llechwedd Dyrys. The Brairwood Products Ltd prize of £25 this week goes to Francis and Partners Penllwyn. Weekly sale of OTM's every Monday at 9am prompt.

FAT CATTLE (8)

Only eight fat cattle presented for sale today, selling to average 218ppkg for the steers and 217ppkg for the heifers. J M Rowlands Dolwen sold three heifers to a top market price of 235ppkg, 227ppkg and 205ppkg. Francis and Partners Penllwyn sold a steers to 226ppkg. J M Rowlands Dolwen receives the Briarwood Product Ltd Prize of £25 for the highest ppkg animal sold on the day. Weekly sale of fat cattle at 12.30pm every Monday.

PRIME LAMBS (8605)

An entry of 8605 prime lambs, selling to an excellent average of 202.58ppkg.

Super Lights (81) to 195ppkg from Bonner Evans Esgair Hir. Others to 192ppkg from W & R Beamond Cwmcarnedd Uchaf. Average of 190.9ppkg.

Lights (1406) to 219ppkg from A E Morgan & Son Cincoed and L Roberts & Son Monksfield. Others to 215ppkg from IA & CL Jones Cyffin Isa. Average of 195ppkg.

Standards (2353) to 261ppkg from D R Pryce Mount Nebo. Others to 244ppkg from S J Smith Penybryn. Average of 202ppkg.

Mediums (2941) to 248ppkg & 244ppkg from CL & C Watkins Bank Farm. Others to 234ppkg from R P Thomas Troedygaer. Average of 204ppkg.

Heavies (1431) to 213ppkg from R E Evans & Son Dinnant. Others to 212ppkg from J M Rowlands Dolwen. Average of 196ppkg.

Over Weights (206) to 192ppkg from J M Rowlands Dolwen. Other to 190ppkg from BJ & MY Davies Gorse Farm. Average of 181ppkg.

Weekly sales of Fat Lambs at 10.30am.

CULL EWE (2454)

An increased entry of 2454 cull sheep sold to average £62.24 for the ewes and £87.46 for the rams. Cull ewes topped at £115 per head from J Thomas & Son Tanhouse Farm. E H Pennie & Son Gwern y ychain sold ewes to £109 per head. Rams topped at £119 per head from F W Davies Rhosypennau and D Davies Troedrhiw Fach. Weekly sale of Cull sheep to immediately follow the sale of Fat Lambs at approximately noon.

STORE EWES AND STORE LAMBS

Store Lambs. A strong entry of 1122 store lambs entered the market this week selling to a strong average of £68.38. Top price of the day went to Mr B Balmer Townsend for Texel Tup lambs from W J Barnett & Son Rhuvid sold to £78. Mixed and clean mule lambs from Evans & Thomas Gwaen tre Beddau achieving £78.50 while theave lambs from H & G Davies Neuaddllwyd achieved £79.50. More store lambs required next week, the same time, at 10.30am.

COWS AND CALVES

A small entry seasonal entry of 4 in the cow and calf section met with a good trade. A purebred Limousin cow with a heifer calf at foot from DG & KJ Evans sold for £1760. Presented by G & M Lewis Caenymynydd was a British Blue 1st calver with a Limousin Bull calf which made £1710. E A Rogers New Hall sold 2 Saler In Calf heifers for £770 and £650.

STORE CATTLE

A good entry of 178 store cattle where forward on Monday 12th December. Even with the beef price slipping back a little there was still an excellent demand on the store cattle with buyers from away competing with the locals. Leading prices where as follows:

Steers (£ per head)

Limousinx (x1) 715kg £1320 E E Davies & Co Dyffryn Gwyn

Limousinx (x1) 585kg £1165 J N Pugh Garthbwt

Simmentalx (x4) 585kg £1110 TH & NE & EJ Jones Plas Coch

Limousinx (x1) 630kg £1100 TH & ME & EJ Jones Plas Coch

Simmentalx (x2) 575kg £1095 TH & ME & EJ Jones Plas Coch

Charolaisx (x2) 627kg £1095 S Vogel Lower Tynycefn

HEIFERS

Limousinx (x1) 462kg £990 J N Pugh Garthbwt

Limousinx (x3) 461kg £905 J N Pugh Garthbwt

Limousinx (x1) 545kg £900 D H Butler Gorwel Deg

Limousinx (x4) 455kg £895 J N Pugh Garthbwt

Limousinx (x1) 470kg £895 A H Richards & Co Tynant

Charolaisx (x1) 460kg £890 D O Jones & Son Tyddyn.

FORTHCOMING SALES

Monday, December 19, Dairy Cows and Christmas Cracker of Texel In Lamb Ewes.

Tuesday, December 27, Sale of Fat Lambs & Cull Sheep only

Monday, January 2 Sale of OTM's, Fat Cattle, Fat Hoggets, Cull Sheep, Store Ewes, Store Lambs and Dairy Cows.

Monday, January 9, Sale of Cows and Calves.

Monday,January 16, Sale of Dairy Cows and Store Cattle

Monday, January 23, Sale of Cows and Calves

Monday, January 30, Sale of Dairy Cows.

Tuesday, January31, January Fair of Store Cattle.

Oswestry cattle auctions

FAT CATTLE: (96)

What a storming show of quality cattle forward for our Christmas show and sale. A credit to all vendors. Champion beast from Mike Rowlands Dolwen a Heifer weighing 520kg and selling to 360p to Mr Gwyn Evans, butcher Llanfyllin.

Reserve Champion also from Mike Rowlands a steer weighing 595kg 290p selling to Mr Joey Jones and Family, Wrexham. The 28 show cattle on offer averaged 231p/kg and all over 200p. An excellent job was carried out by our Judge Mr S B Jones of Ruthin. An overall market average of 201p was achieved which equates to £1100/head for the 96 cattle sold. Included in that were plain friesian Heifers at 124p. If you have cattle to sell please contact the Auctioneer Jonathan Evans on 07971 002650 or the Market office.

Young Bulls (31)

Overall Average 197p.

Light Bulls (3) Average 185.5p (£835/head) Selling to 215p from J W Jones & Partners Pantglas Isa

Medium Bulls (16) Average 197p (£1010/head) Selling to 213p from G R & E W Davies Nanthir

Heavy Bulls (12) Average 199p (£1190/head) Selling to 219p from A H M Lea & Sons Lee Bridges

Steers (30) Overall Average 193p.

Medium Steers (9) Average 184p (£945/head) Selling to 221p from D Hughes Plasgwyn Bungalow

Heavy Steers (21) Average 196p (£1245/head) Selling to 290p from J M Rowlands Dolwen Farm

Heifers (35) Overall Average 212p

Medium Heifers (9) Average 199.5p (£920/head) Selling to 224p from J W Jones & Partners Pantglas Isa

Heavy Heifers (26) Average 216p (£1140/head) Selling to 360p from J M Rowlands Dolwen Farm

An overall market average of 201p was achieved on all cattle sold the highest ever recorded at Oswestry. Thank you for your continued support

FAT LAMBS: (5372)

An excellent entry of 5372 lambs on Wednesday, December 7, for our Christmas Fat Stock Show and Sale.

An excellent job was carried out by our Judge Mr Glyn Morris who awarded the champion pen of lambs to M & S Jones Lower Forest farm for an excellent pen of 10 butchers lambs weighing at 42.5kg making 249p which was purchased by Mr P Smith on behalf of P Webber of Hereford, the other prizes are as follows. The best 10 Welsh Lambs first place went to G Ellett Cefnderwen for 44kg lambs at 194p/kg, second went to E Morris Ty Du with 39kg lambs at 192p/kg.

The best 10 Butchers lambs up to 32kg first place went to D Morris Parkside for 32kg lambs at 225p/kg, second went to R O Thomas Bryncoch with 32kg lambs at 219p/kg.

The best 10 Butchers lambs 32.5 – 37kg first place went to M & S Jones Lower Forest Farm for 37kg lambs at 241p/kg, second went to D Morris Parkside with 36kg lambs at 221p/kg.

The best 10 Butchers lambs 37.5 – 44kg first place went to M & S Jones Lower Forest Farm for 42.5kg lambs at 249p/kg, second went to D Morris Parkside with 41kg lambs at 229p/kg.

The best 10 Butchers lambs 44.5kg and over first place went to M & S Jones Lower Forest Farm for 47.5kg lambs at 222p/kg, second went to E J Jackson Lane Farm with 44.5kg lambs at 220p/kg.

Superlights to 190p average 173.5p Lights to 225p average 193p, Standards to 241p average 200p, Mediums to 249p average 209p, Heavy's to 222p average 205.5p, Others to 193p average 187p. Overall average 202.5p.

FAT EWES: (457)

Ewes to £106.00 average £55.50, Rams to £131.00, average £87.00

Please Note: All sheep entering the Market must be tagged.

CALVES: (82)

Good numbers again but a distinct shortage of best quality calves. Best friesians most keenly sought . killing calves less money.

British Blue Bulls to £308from Messrs Owen Tanycoed £266 from Messrs James Church Farm. Limousin Bulls to £282 & £278 from Messrs Pryce Coedmawr.

Simmental Bulls to £268 from Messrs Gilman Birch Hall. Charolais Heifers to £280 from Messrs Evans Halton Farm. British Blue Heifers to £260 from Messrs Foulkes Selattyn Lodge. Limousin Heifers to £242 from Messrs Jones Lady Hill. Montbeliarde Bulls to £216 & £206 from Messrs Owen Carreg Y Frank. Hereford Heifers to £214 from Messrs Savage Glanfeinion. Friesian Bulls to £182 from Messrs Evans Little Green Farm £160 & £110 from Messrs Foulkes Maesteg £156 from Messrs Ede Willow Farm £109 from Messrs Foulkes Selattyn Lodge £108 from Messrs Andrew Neuadd Uchaf

U72 & CULL COWS: (65)

A good entry of 65 Cattle met with an easier trade although the best cattle were selling very well. There were a lot of plain cattle forward today which was reflected in the average.

Top price cow 161p/kg, Heifers 178p/kg and Steers 169p/kg. Top price cow overall was £1240.30 and Heifers £1314.80

Cows

Limousin to 161p average 154.03p/kg

Belgian Blue to 127p

Simmental to 149p average 142.46p/kg

Friesian to 119p average 96.42p/kg

Heifers

Limousin to 178p average 158.12p/kg

Friesian to 138p average 132.14p/kg

Steers

Limousin to 169p average 135.84p/kg

65 Cattle average 114.96p/kg

If any vendor has changed their Farm Assured details please could you notify the market office 01691 653547 so our data base can be updated many thanks.

Quids in when The Regal opened

WE'VE been dipping into the memoirs of Oswestry-born Mrs Mary Jones, nee Richards, which are entitled "Some Recollections of an Ordinary Woman", loaned to us by her daughter, Mrs Mary Abel.

In this latest extract, the young Mary Richards, whose parents kept the Bear Hotel (now called The Smithfield), has just left school in the 1920s.

by Toby Neal

❑❑❑

We bought our first car when I left school. It was a five seater tourer, a Clyno. We thought we were in heaven.

Neither of my parents ever learnt to drive, but all we young ones learned to drive that car.

My two older brothers and myself were over 16, so we could get a licence.

A man named Evan Smith worked for us, as a horse and cart worker and a handyman about the hotel when such work was short. Before he came to us he had been employed by J.P. Arthur's Garage as a driver, so he was the ideal person to teach us, and it did not take long.

One afternoon, after a successful drive with my father, I turned into the Bear Yard, and went straight into the garage doors, which were large corrugated iron ones, on runners. Fortunately it did not do much damage.

On a summer's afternoon and evening in a quiet time I could now take my grandparents and parents for a nostalgic ride.

It was lovely knowing that my grandparents were enjoying themselves so much. At Guilsfield, we always went into the church where they had been married.

They lived to celebrate their golden wedding, and to within a year of their diamond wedding.

Fancied

We always looked at the grave of his youngest brother, David, who had been killed at the age of 17 when he had been pierced by a horse's shaft owing to the drunken incapability of the head waggoner.

Around 1930 some people from Oswestry had bought horse drawn caravans on wheels, or small wooden bungalows, and put them on the old racecourse, and used them for summer holidays.

We had seen these up there on our walks, and fancied that we would like to do the same. I think the first year Uncle Herbert lent us two small wooden buildings he had made new.

It wasn't long before all the caravans were told to move from the racecourse, and we moved our patch to Mrs Vaughan, of the Gloppa.

After the brewery had been demolished we heard that a new cinema was going to be built on the site. We watched it going up and with it two shops and an office. Everyone was pleased to have another cinema, as Mr Black had had the monopoly for many years, and did not get first class films.

Two brothers from Cefn were the mainstays of the company, and they already had a cinema in Cefn. The one we grew to know best was Robert Myddleton Jones.

It was a good thing for us to have this cinema, which was called The Regal, because patrons used our yard for parking, and an arrangement was made whereby they bought a parking ticket from us for 6d, and on producing it at the booking office received a 3d rebate.

Invested

Mr Jones came daily by car from Cefn, and had his meals with us, often bringing the film agents with him.

In the evenings, the attendants required tea, so business for us was increased. No doubt many came into the smokeroom after the show.

My father invested some money in the company, and was a regular visitor to a seat which he knew he could have on any night he chose.

Mr Jones had been in the First World War, and had been in an incredible number of incidents, which he recalled time and time again.

The Regal Cinema, Oswestry, pictured in 2001

Parade is hailed as a record breaker

ORGANISERS of Oswestry's fun-filled Christmas parade have thanked everyone who took part and supported the festive extravaganza – and have revealed the event broke several records.

More than £2,000 was raised through a bucket collection as the Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club parade made its way through the town centre at the weekend.

And more than 50 vehicle floats and walking floats took part.

Jonathan Jones, chairman of the major events committee at Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club, said the event had been one of the best Christmas parades yet.

He said: "In all, over £2,150 was raised by the bucket collection and all of this will go to local and Rotary charities.

"The biggest 'thank you' must go to the people of Oswestry for turning out in such large numbers. We look forward to another successful event next year."

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Departure dates :	Various 2012/13
Duration:	11 days

Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Town's youth cafe tastes market life

MEMBERS OF Oswestry Youth Cafe enjoyed a taste of market life when the group set up a stall in the town as part of a new partnership scheme.

The cafe, in partnership with the Skill Up training group, set up the stall to sell artwork at the town's outdoor market.

The work had been completed during the cafe's regular Art Attack project, which runs at its Oswald Road base on Thursdays.

Handmade cards together with items from Oswestry's Project Group were also on offer, helping to provide a variety of stocking fillers for Christmas.

by Graham Breeze

Skills

Ian Wilson, manager of Oswestry Youth Cafe, said: "We are really pleased that Oswestry Town Council is supporting this project along with Walford and Northern Shropshire College, Oswestry Borderland Rotary and Skill Up.

"The project is all about working to develop young people's skills and helping them look at ways of making money.

"Oswestry market is an ideal place to trial ideas and encourage young people to look at retail as a possible career.

"We are looking at a mainstream project for 2012 and this pilot will help us shape how to use the concept and identify partners.

"We usually make a profit on the stall and today was no exception. The weather was not very kind to us and I can honestly say the stall took off."

For more information or to support the project contact Ian Wilson on (01691) 656559 or visit www.ozyouthcafe.co.uk

Setting up the stall are, back, from left, cafe volunteer Ruhina Begum, co-ordinator Liz Jones, and county training foundation learning keyworker, Linda Martin. Front, cafe volunteer, Ross James.

Jan to boost use of school buildings

Appointed – Jan Carruthers

A RUYTON-XI-TOWNS school has appointed a new development officer in a bid to increase use of school facilities for functions such as conferences and day camps.

Adcote School has announced that Mrs Jan Carruthers has joined as School Development Officer and is looking to increase use of school facilities for weddings, receptions, summer day camps, conferences, and other events.

Jan has had a 20-year career on Washington DC's Capitol Hill working as Congressional aide and, eventually, as a very senior Chief of Staff in the US House of Representatives.

Jan married a UK resident and settled in Wales with her husband and daughter where she has been busily identifying skills picked up in politics, like fund-raising and event planning that are transferable to her new country.

Anyone interested in booking the school should contact her at events@adcoteschool.co.uk

Shropshire Council

Don't forget your bin collection days change over Christmas

The day of the week your waste and recycling is collected will change over the Christmas period. These changes start on **Christmas Eve** and end on **Monday 9 January 2012.** Some collections will be one or more days earlier than usual and some collections will be later than usual. These dates are already on your calendar but here is a reminder.

More waste and recycling is created over the festive season so make sure you know when to put your bins and boxes out.

If you need any help or more information, please call Shropshire Council's Customer Service Centre on: **0345 678 9007**

or visit: **www.recycleforshropshire.com**
or email: **customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk**

Thank you for recycling!

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 19 December	No change
Tuesday 20 December	No change
Wednesday 21 December	No change
Thursday 22 December	No change
Friday 23 December	No change
Monday 26 December	Saturday 24 December
Tuesday 27 December	Wednesday 28 December
Wednesday 28 December	Thursday 29 December
Thursday 29 December	Friday 30 December
Friday 30 December	Saturday 31 December
Monday 2 January	Tuesday 3 January
Tuesday 3 January	Wednesday 4 January
Wednesday 4 January	Thursday 5 January
Thursday 5 January	Friday 6 January
Friday 6 January	Saturday 7 January

Collections return to normal from 9 January 2012. Please see your existing collection calendar or check the web site: **www.shropshire.gov.uk/binday**

recycle for Shropshire

VEOLIA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

NEWS

Organisers reaching for the skies with big event

by Graham Breeze

A HOT AIR balloon could be taking off from Oswestry as part of a massive free event being organised by churchgoers.

Members of Churches Together in Oswestry District are planning an event called Love Oswestry, to be held in the town park next summer.

A team of eight are working on plans and hope it will entertain up to 1,000 people.

The date has been set for June 16 and it will take place from noon until 2pm. A large programme of events is being worked on including having a tethered hot air balloon.

The Reverend Russell Howes, of Albert Road Evangelical Church, said: "It is not fixed yet but we are trying to see if we can hire a hot air balloon to put in the park to take people up and down a short distance.

"We can imagine the balloon appearing over the tree line and it will appear to people across the town.

Entertainers

"That would be fantastic but it is a big thing that we need to work on."

Other activities planned include music and entertainers such as jugglers, puppets and a magician.

Also in the pipeline are a bouncy castle, information stalls, barbecues, ice cream stand and a football cage.

Mr Howes said: "We are welcoming everyone to come along and enjoy the day. There will also be refreshments available.

"We want to bless people in Oswestry and we want to send out the message that God loves them and we want to share that through the music and activities going on.

"We really want to do something for as many people as possible and we are planning for 1,000. We want to do something that is really enjoyable."

The event is free because it is to be funded entirely from money raised by church members across the town.

Church members are now calling for volunteers to help at the event. Talents needed include technical experts for power and sound, organisers, caters, first aiders or any other skills.

College cup-cake course

Chef Darren Davies from The Walls Restaurant in Oswestry ran a Christmas cup-cake making course on Friday at Walford College. Darren organised the workshop to share his knowledge and expertise of cookery. Taking a look at a selection of cup cakes are Linda Hatton from Oswestry, Darren Davies and Jacqui Edwards from Four Crosses. Both ladies were taking part in the workshop.

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Iconic friend is a great survivor

ON THE WILD SIDE with Ben Waddams

THE Bible tells us of a man who, born some 2,000 years ago, came to play a key role in the life and death of Jesus Christ.

He was a poor man with a penchant for money and he saw no obstruction large enough to prevent him from getting more of it. His real name is unknown but he is referred to in Scripture as Judas Iscariot (Iscariot simply means 'liar' or 'false one').

As is par for the course in the Bible, the exact chronology of events and the events themselves are jumbled and contradictory, but the general consensus is that Judas became a disciple of Jesus before being seduced by the Romans with a purse of 30 pieces of silver, and consequently assisting in the arrest of Christ and therefore his subsequent crucifixion.

Aside from it being Christmas, why do I bring up Biblical narrative here? The answer is that there is a delightful little fungus to be found during December that takes its name from Christ's shadowy defector.

Jews' ear fungus is a small velvety cap, which when touched, quivers and feels just like a real human ear. But if it looks so much like any old ear, why 'Jew's ear'? Why not 'Human ear fungus' or simply 'Ear fungus'? Because the name, in its uncorrupted form, would have been 'Judas ear'.

When Judas became aware of the full significance of his actions, one of the many stories tells us he was so guilt laden for his betrayal, that he hung himself. How did he hang himself? By tying a noose to a common elder tree. Where is 'Jew's ear' fungus found? On the common elder.

Tame

But let us move on from such morbid curiosities and look at another iconic organism at Christmas time. If you are lucky enough to have received a good smattering of cards this festive season, then I wouldn't mind betting that there are several depicting the robin.

Erithacus rubecula presents itself as particularly tame in the winter. Along with every other wild animal, it is struggling more and more to find its daily supply of food and will approach quite close if it thinks its presence will result in you throwing it a worm or perhaps taking to an impulsive bout of gardening and earth turning.

Struggle as it may, you do have to admire the robin, for it does so with hearty resolve, singing its way through the day and maintaining its territory not just throughout the winter, but into spring as well, allowing it to get one up on those birds that haven't. Each robin will begin exploring other robins' territories during December in the hope of finding a mate. The male and female will not actually pair up with each other until mid-January, whereupon the females will stop singing. But in the meantime we can enjoy these tunefully vocal harbingers of good tidings and rejoice in the colourful manifestations of nature in all her wintry glory.

For a last chance to catch Ben exhibiting his artwork this year, come and see him at the Christmas fair in Shrewsbury Square this Saturday.

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Amy Winehouse , Our Day will come

Nicole Scherzinger Try With Me

One Direction, What Makes You

Adele Turning Tables

I CAN'T believe how close to Christmas we are getting. More to the point, I can't believe how few shopping days we have left and I've already run out of money.

How've you been getting on? Have you been taking advantage of the January sales which appear to have already started?

They do seem to be starting earlier every year, eventually they'll make it back to the previous January.

So much to give away on the breakfast show between now and Christmas; we are continuing our advent calendar including a prize on Christmas day.

This week we also gave away a selection of turkeys and festive hampers thanks to Greenfields Farm Shop.

It's been another cold week although I suppose we shouldn't complain as it was much colder, much earlier last year. However, we had to chuckle this week after receiving a warning from the Met Office which was titled 'Yellow Snow Warning' – a slight wording error perhaps? Remember though, never eat yellow snow.

In local news; Oswestry Town Museum are preparing a timeline of the town from the formation of the rock that it sits upon right through to the present day. They are looking for nominations of Oswestry people who have been important to the town over the years to include in the project. If you can suggest someone, call Mark on 01948 781079. The details need to be finalised by December 21st so that the Timeline panels can be produced ready for the Museum's opening on March 1st 2012.

As we get ever closer to Christmas, remember to let me know the details of your event or group by emailing me with all the info, we'll try and give you a mention during the breakfast show and I will do my best to attend; email me neil.bentley@the severn.co.uk. You can always contact the studio by phone on 0333 456 0777.

The festive TV cookery shows are everywhere at the moment. From gorgeous starters to tempting deserts and a million different ways to cook a Turkey.

Of course, none of this matters because I will just cook the turkey the same way as always, stick it in the oven for about 4 hours… done!

Turns out I am not alone. A recent survey has found that one in four of us cook a microwave meal whilst watching a celebrity chef Christmas cooking show.

As long as the actual chef doesn't start to cook everything in the microwave we should be okay.

● *The Neil Bentley Breakfast Show, weekdays from 6am on 106.5, 107.1 and 107.4fm The Severn. Follow us on Twitter @thesevern or listen online at www.thesevern.co.uk You can also hear the highlights of the show on our weekly podcast available via the website.*

Trust's urgent appeal for funding

STEAM ENTHUSIASTS planning to build a major tourism attraction near Oswestry have launched an emergency appeal for more cash.

The Glyn Valley Tramway Trust says it needs to raise at least £1,500 to help meet the cost of carrying out a vital tree survey before planning approval for the ambitious project can be given.

The trust is proposing to reopen a tramway which took goods and passengers from the Ceiriog Valley to Chirk until it closed in 1935. An application has been lodged for the partial reopening of the line.

But group chairman David Cooper has revealed that more funding is urgently needed to progress the plans.

He said: "The trust submitted its planning application for the reinstatement of the tramway to Wrexham Borough Council in November 2010.

"We have now been advised that, in order to satisfy the planning department, we have to undertake a further tree survey as the survey that we have submitted does not fulfill the requirements of the British standard for tree surveys.

"We are of course undertaking to raise funds for this survey as quickly as possible as there does not appear, after much exploration, to be any public funding available for such specialised surveys.

"In view of the huge economic, heritage and employment benefits available to Chirk and the Ceiriog Valley to be gained from our project, we are determined that our revival will succeed. We now need to raise the sum of £1,500 very quickly. Already a number of members have made generous donations but we still require further support.

"Please will you help by making a donation however large or small to speed us towards this essential goal."

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Ian Davies, the project manager, on 07929 260962.

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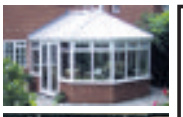

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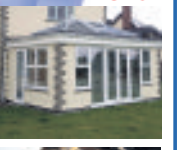

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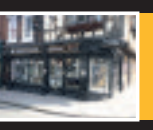

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Seven-seater 5008 is practical, refined and lives up to its hype

DRIVE TIME
with Graham Breeze

WHEN WHAT CAR magazine and a canny group of Scottish motoring journalists shower awards on a car you know it has to be something special.

So it was no surprise to find that the Peugeot 5008 lived up to all expectations and it was easy to see why it had been named as car of the year by these leading groups. With the 5008 Peugeot reintroduced one of its most famous series of vehicles – the 5. Following in the footsteps of the legendary 504 and the family favourite 505 estate was never going to be an easy task, but the 5008 ticks all the right boxes.

The 5008 is a natural extension to the Peugeot family range and is a genuine seven seater, though asking it to cope with six adults, three sets of golf clubs and luggage on a weekend break proved just too much a challenge.

Having said that the 5008 is a practical and refined family car, with as much refinement that you would expect – and it's a pleasure to drive too.

This is a particularly tough market to be in. Everyone is now in on the act of producing MPVs and claiming they have the best offering but judges are clearly pointing knowing fingers in Peugeot's direction.

Stylish rear design gives the car its own visual signature and tailgate use is a particularly strong point with a level loading bay and as many seating configurations as you could reasonable want.

Middle and back row seats fold flat into the floor and even the front seat passenger's seat can be folded flat to make just that extra bit of space.

For families looking for that extra bit of space there are storage spaces all over the place including the doors, under the steering wheel and in the large central console. At the rear passengers can make use of storage areas in the floor as well as the rear pockets and by folding down the rear seat you can create 60 litres of storage space.

Personally I wouldn't want to travel too far in the back two seats but they are more than adequate for youngsters and more comfortable than many I have tried.

Aerodynamic styling, supported by profiled headlamps and a steeply raked bonnet, means the 5008 stand out in a crowd.

All-round visibility is as good as it gets with a vehicle of this size and a large panoramic glass roof lets in plenty of light.

As with lots of MPVs today you can keep rear seat passengers happy with a multimedia system which can be incorporated into the headrest of the front seats – ideal for that long journey.

Driver and passenger safety is high on Peugeot's agenda with the 5008 with head curtain airbags covering all three rows of seats activating as the same time as the side airbags.

ESP comes as standard as well as an electric parking brake and hill assist function.

There's also seat belt warnings for all passengers along with tyre under-inflation detectors.

You also get front and rear parking assist and an innovative system which measures available parking space and gives visual indications on the front monitor.

On test was the 5008 Exclusive HDi 163 Auto with a two litre unit which is on sale at £25,195. Metallic paint, navigation and Bluetooth, leather trim, heated seats a parking aid and a lower trim upgrade added another £3,700.

And the 5008 is not slow. You can expect 0-62mph in 10.5 seconds and a top speed of 118mph. CO2 emissions are 181g/km and you can achieve 40.9mpg on the combined cycle, though around town this drops to less than 30mpg.

Meanwhile, the Exclusive gets 17 inch alloys, climate control, folding mirrors and rear parking aid.

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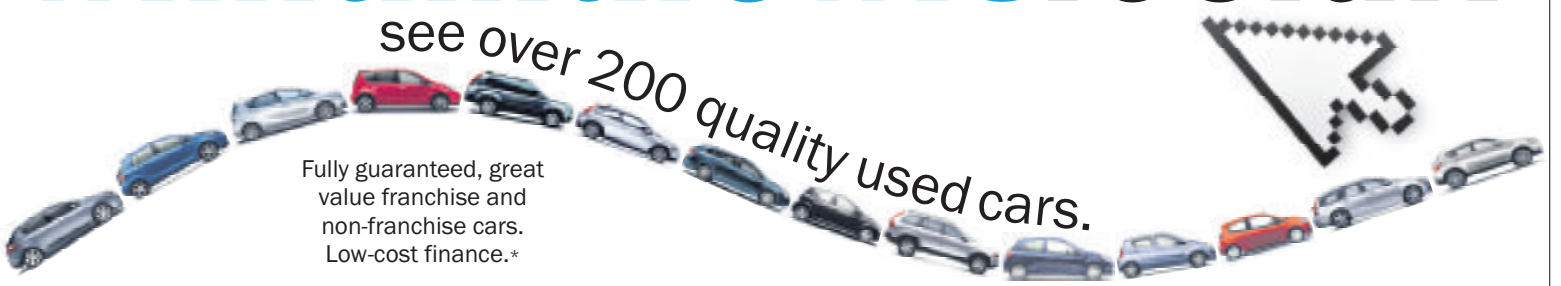

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Allstars go top with win over Unicorn

AFTER five matches during November the Oswestry Pool League has gone through some changes up and down the league.

The month's stand-out match between the Stanton Allstars and Unicorn Border Boys had many twists and turns but eventually the Allstars came through with a 3-2 home victory which sees them go top of the league.

At the other end of the division the Three Pigeons welcomed the Five Bells and it was the home team who proved to be the stronger with a 4-1 victory.

Ian Richardson took a point for Five Bells.

Standings

The league's leading players include the brothers from the Red Lion, Ian and Andrew Jones, and Karl Thomas from the Border Boys, with all three players holding a played 12 won 11 record.

Mike Bebb from Five Lions has pulled away from the pack in the break and clear standings with his third this year coming against the Miners Arms.

With the half way point in the league just around the corner, December's matches seem to take on even more importance.

The top four go head to head during the festive period with all four teams in with a chance of ending the calendar year top of the tree.

Seniors Captain Alistair Wright, Lady Captain Sara Meehan and Club Captain Pete Kanes.

Captains call at Henlle Park

THE incoming 2012 Captains at Henlle Park Golf Club, are Pete Kanes , Sara Meehan and Alistair Wright. Their terms start in January.

All three, who will assume the role of club captain, lady captain and seniors captain respectively, are raising money for the same charity Guide Dogs For The Blind Association. They hope to raise £5,000.00 to buy, train and sponsor for 18 months a dog to aid a blind person.

Several functions will be held over the year including a ball next September.

Archers on target

FOUR junior Croesoswallt archers were on target for success in their first British National indoor championships in Telford.

Rhianne Duggin, who was 13th in the junior women's under-14 individual tournament, was selected to represent Wales that weekend. She scored 396 points, while Natalie Grover was close behind in 14th place with a score of 366.

The junior men were equally impressive. James Owen came 19th in the under-16 group, scoring 519 points.

His brother Thomas was 21st in the under-18 group with 534.

This was the first time any of these junior archers have competed at this level and in a national championships, and their performances show that the future for archery in Oswestry looks very promising.

Rhianne Duggin in her Welsh shirt.

Wyatt defies elements to take honours in last medal of year

by John Bridgwater

CONSISTENT performer Andrew Wyatt, off his 17-handicap, returned a fine two under par nett 66 to take this month's top honour in the Lakeside December Monthly Medal that took place in very testing weather and course conditions.

Close behind in runners-up spot was big hitting Charlie Brown (12) on 67, just edging lefty Kevin Lloyd (13) on the back nine, also with a nett 67.

Brown got his revenge in the gross division with a fine 79, this time edging Lloyd into second spot with an 80. Wyatt secured third spot carding a gross 83.

The Winter League also continued with the following results being returned. Nett League – 1 Club Captain Brad Willetts, 2 Charlie Brown, 3 Dai Davies. Gross League – 1 Jamie Davies, 2 Willetts, 3 vice-captain Doug Anderson. The annual presentation dinner also took place with a maximum capacity of members attending this year's event.

The following members took this year's top honours: Anderson Challenge Trophy – Gary Kruger, Winter League Nett & Gross Titles – Vice-Captain Doug Anderson, Pairs Championship – Jim & Sandy Knight, Under 20 Handicap Shield – Connor Parry, 20+ Handicap Shield – Mrs Sandy Knight, Elaine Willetts Ladies Bowl – Miss Denise Hazelwood, Long John Salver – Smike Richards, McKay Club Captains Cup – Brent Jones, Seniors Cup – Phil Lewis, W.J. Henry Black Presidents Cup – Charlie Brown, Pairs Matchplay Championship – Mike Pearce & Joe Davies, Juniors Cup - Junior Captain Ben Dransfield, Lakeside Ryder Cup - Celts Team, Club Champion - Connor Parry, Nett Club Championship – Marius Van Lill, Junior Summer League – Miss Christa Humphreys, Handicap Secretary's Cup – Kevin Lewis, Nett Summer League – Mike Pearce, Gross Summer League - Joe Davies, Most Improved Player of the Year -Connor Parry, Clubman of the Year – club Secretary/past captain – Gary D McKay.

Denise Hazelwood is all smiles after collecting the Elaine Willetts Ladies Bowl.

Club Champion Connor Parry holds aloft his impressive reward for the season.

Brent Jones was the winner of the McKay Club Captains Cup.

Golf returns

HENLLE PARK

Mixed Competition: 1 Lynn Edwards & Derek Williams 41pts, 2 Linda & Chris Buckley 40,3 Viv & Tony Davies 36, 4 Jackie Tuck & Eddie Smith 34.

Christmas Pairs Stableford: 1 Daniel & David McConaghy 41pts, 2 Granville Cliffe & Bob Markey 40, 3 Pete Kanes & Malcolm Smith 39

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Christmas Competition 8 (mixed fourball betterball stableford): 1 Brian & Marilyn Beckett 41pts, 2 Ian & Bev Cadwallader 37pts obn.

Men's fourball betterball stableford: 1 Chris Williams & Garry Pugh 45pts, 2 Jeff Johnson & Merv Pugh 43.

MILE END

Nine Hole Sunday Social: 1 Alice Seal, John Seal, John Turner, Keith Evans 88pts, 2 Di Bradbury, Dave Carpenter, Roger Edwards, Ron Pugh 83.

Ladies Social Four Ball: 1 Sheila Russell, Anna Pugh, Janet Edwards, Janice Turner 94pts, 2 Amanda Ord, Carol Slater, Janis Jones, Anne Bailey 87.

Mens Winter Pairs: 1 John Hughes, Derek Newitt 45pts, 2 Ricky Burke, Kev Jones 44, 3 Gavin Wright, Mark Manson 43.

Sunday Social: 1 Di Bradbury, Dave Carpenter 19.5, 2 Gavin Wright, Peter Bailey 23.0, 3 Moya Holmes, Keith Evans 26.0.

Ladies Three to Count: 1 Moya Holmes, Di Fisher, Janice Turner 90pts, 2 Rosemary Plomer, Carol Slater, Shirley Thomas 85, 3 Pat Marriott, Amanda Ord, Anne Bayley 76.

OSWESTRY

Mens Winter Open: 1 Robin Rees & Ian Bowe 46pts, 2 Grant Litchfield & Dave Hughes 43, 3 Ted Lewis & Steve Gale 42*, 4 Jez Mellors & Guy Wilson 42.

Four Ball Better Ball Stableford: 1 Jz Mellors (16.6) & Will Woodward (10.3) 42*, 2 Chris Harrison (14.3) & Darren Griffiths (6.3) 42pts, 3 Bob Yapp (12.6) & Richard Keenan (10.4) 40*, 4 Martin Jenks & Simon Roberts 40*, 5t Graham Sayers & Lee Pearce 40*, 6 Stuart Owen & Eddie Marks 40*

December Stableford - Div One: 1 Carl Manning 39, 2 Ian Pearce 38*, 3 Robin Rees 38*, 4 Goronwy Griffiths 38; Div two: 1 Phillip Hayward 39, 2 Bob Yapp 38, 3 Richard Roberts 37; Div three: 1 Paul Huxley 45, 2 Steve Hibbert 41, 3 Dennis Cooke 38. Best Gross: Will Jones 74

THE BROW

Winter League 6: 1 Andrew Graham 40-8=32, 2 Ray Cartwright 42-9.5=32.5, 3 John Williams 42-9=33, 4 Garry Gregory 40-6=34.

WELSHPOOL

Medal: 1 Justin Williams 44.5,2 Phil Jones with 45.5, 3 Alan Meredith 46.5.

Sunday Stableford: 1 Dave Rowlands 24pts, 2 Mike Gittins 23, 3 Ritchie Williams 22.

Clarke king of the Oswestry table tennis scene – 32 years after last winning title

IAN Clarke took the Oswestry Table Tennis open Singles Title 32 years after winning his last title in the 1981/82 season, ***writes JIM REEVES.***

In the event with a much higher turnout than usual, there were some very close matches with Clarke ,the number two seed, coming out on top of the number one seed Wyn Williams. In the earlier rounds the number 4 seed , Andy Hardy, lost to Dave Hunt in straight sets, while the number 3 seed, Andy Knott lost to Jeremy Chavez. Chavez was then beaten by Jim Reeves who reached the semi finals, while Hunt went out to Stephen Roberts from Kinnerley to reach the other semi final.

The number one seed Williams was too strong for Roberts and the number two seed Clarke disposed of Reeves .

The Final played over the best of 5 sets swung the way of Ian Clarke as he took the first two sets 11-8, 11-4, with some fine steady play inter mixed with fast powerful top spin hitting.

Williams fought back to take the third set 11-5. In the fourth set the match went to and fro before reaching 10-10. At this stage both players had set points, but it was Clarke who came out on top and took the set 15-13 and the title.

The Division 2 singles event was also well supported with Bob Andrews, Arthur Jones, Pat Lovell and Jeremy Chavez fighting there way through to the semi final stage. In the first semi final, Jones had a comfortable win over Andrews, and Chavez went through against Lovell. Chavez struggled against Jones in the final, as the styles did not mix, and it was Jones's experience and control which overcame Chavez. Jones winning 11-7, 11- 4, 11-5.

The handicap event, was run with handicaps from minus 6 to plus 7.

In the early rounds John Lewis had a good win over Any Knott in 2 straight sets, Ivor Evans was playing exceptional well and knocked out Jason Harris 11-9, 11-9. Wyn Williams lost easily against a very good performance from Jeremy Chavez, and Simon Shortt overcame club colleague Dave Vart. Arthur Jones was also progressing well with a close win over Pat Lovell 12-10, 7 -11, 11-7.

Difference

In the semi finals it was Ivor Evans who put out the open singles winner Ian Clarke, while Jeremy Chavez was putting an end to the John Lewis challenge. This set up a final of two players playing well on the night. The match was a classic, with only a one point difference in the handicap. Chavez playing a strong top spin game, attacked from the outset and took the first set 11-7. Evans also being a hard hitting player, then took the second set 11- 7.

One set each, and very little between the players. Chavez then took the third 11-9, and Evans took the forth 12 -10. Down to the decider, and a very close call. Chavez edged ahead, and built up a three point lead and it was at this point that Evans could not close the gap again, with points going one each way, until Chavez took the set and match by 11-8.

In the Consolation Singles Simon Clowes had a good win over Stephen Roberts of Ex Servicemens, but it was Ivor Evans, Michelle Scott, Jason Harris & Pat Lovell who moved through to the semi finals.

After a tiring game in the handicap final, Evans struggled, and was beaten by Pat Lovell, while in the other semi final, Michele Scott held her nerve in the third set to come out on top 13 - 11 in a very close encounter.

In the final, Pat Lovell took the first set 11 - 6, but Scott came back in the second, to take it closely, 13 -11. Scott then went on to take the title by winning the last set 11 -7.

The Doubles event was handicapped and made up of pairs drawn at random. In the top half of the draw it was the pairings of Dave Blowers & Kinnerley's Stephen Roberts, and Bob Andrews with Arthur Jones who went through to the semi finals.

Blowers & Roberts moving through to the final with ease. In the bottom half, Wyn Williams with Jason Harris over came Jim Reeves & Pat Lovell but only after a very hard fought encounter 11 - 8, 9 -11, 13 - 11. In the final it was Blowers & Robert who were victorious.

PLACINGS

Montgomeryshire & District Air Gun League

League Championship

	P	W	D	L	AS	Pts
Arddleen	6	6	0		0206.1	12
Guilsfield A	7	5	0		2201.0	10
Llanfair Caer	7	4	0		3196.7	8
Churchstoke	5	3	0		2203.7	6
Castle Caer	7	3	0		4193.6	6
Four Crosses	7	2	0		5194.7	4
Guilsfield B	7	2	0		5193.7	4
Crew Green	6	1	0		5193.0	2

Handicap League

	P	W	D	L	AS	Pts
Arddleen	6	4	0		2214.1	8
Four Crosses	7	5	2		2213.5	8
Crew Green	6	4	0		2212.3	8
Churchstoke	5	3	1		1214.3	7
Llanfair Caer	7	3	1		3211.0	7
Castle Caer	7	3	0		4211.9	6
Guilsfield A	7	2	0		5211.9	4
Guilsfield B	7	2	0		5211.1	4

Welshpool Dominoes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A
Pinewood C	12	11	1	61	23
Pinewood A	12	8	4	52	32
Pinewood Dragons	12	9	3	51	33
Sun Inn	12	8	4	50	34
Cock P/A	12	7	5	47	37
Social Club A	12	6	6	46	38
G/Dragon Butt B	12	6	6	41	43
Celts	12	6	6	39	45
Railway	12	4	8	38	46
G/Dragon Butt A	12	4	8	35	49
Powis Arms P/Q	12	4	8	35	49
Compasses	12	4	8	33	51
RAF Boys	12	1	11	18	66

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A
Waterloo	13	11	2	67	24
Kings Head	13	9	4	59	32
Bowling Club	13	8	5	54	37
Cock A	13	9	4	54	37
Dragonflies	13	8	5	53	38
Breidden	13	8	5	51	40
Muriels Bunch	13	8	5	50	41
Westwood Wand	13	7	6	47	44
Talbot	13	7	6	44	47
Horseshoe	13	5	8	40	51
Angel	13	4	9	35	56
Westwood	13	3	10	34	57
Grapes	13	3	10	32	59
Wellington	13	1	12	17	74

Oswestry Pool League

	P	W	L	Pts
Stanton Allstars	13	13	0	56
Unicorn Border Boys	13	11	2	52
Red Lion	13	12	1	51
Five Lions	12	10	2	45
Plough A	14	10	4	43
Unicorn A	13	6	7	40
Unicorn B	13	9	4	38
Plough Weston Rhyn	13	7	6	34
Miners Arms	13	3	10	27
Unicorn Outlaws	13	5	8	25
Bullring	13	5	8	22
Greyhound	13	2	11	20
George	12	2	10	13
Three Pigeons	13	2	11	12
1Five Bells	13	0	13	7

English Clubs Championship

SOUTH LANCS/CHESHIRE 2

	P	W	D	L	BP	Pts
Oswestry	13	11	0	2	10	54
Crewe & Nantwich	15	11	1	3	8	54
Douglas (IOM)	14	10	2	2	8	52
Ruskin Park	13	10	0	3	10	50
Vagabonds (IOM)	13	7	1	5	11	41
Sefton	14	8	0	6	2	34
Dukinfield	14	6	1	7	8	34
Southport	14	6	0	8	5	29
Marple	14	6	0	8	6	25
Oldershaw	15	4	1	10	4	22
Ellesmere Port	14	4	0	10	3	19
Ramsey (IOM)	14	4	2	8	3	18
Moore	13	3	1	9	6	15
Trentham	14	2	1	11	3	8

ENER-G Midland League

WEST MIDLANDS 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Bromsgrovians	11	9	0	41	12	29
Kingswinford	10	9	1	74	19	27
Whitchurch	11	8	1	39	19	26
Pershore	11	5	3	40	23	18
Newtown	11	6	5	32	33	18
Ludlow	11	5	4	38	23	17
Bromsgrove	11	5	6	40	30	15
Rugeley	11	4	6	17	34	13
Oswestry	10	3	6	25	40	10
Yardley	11	3	8	20	53	9
Barlaston	11	1	9	18	43	4

Andrews Fishbar Welshpool Pool League

PREMIER LEAGUE

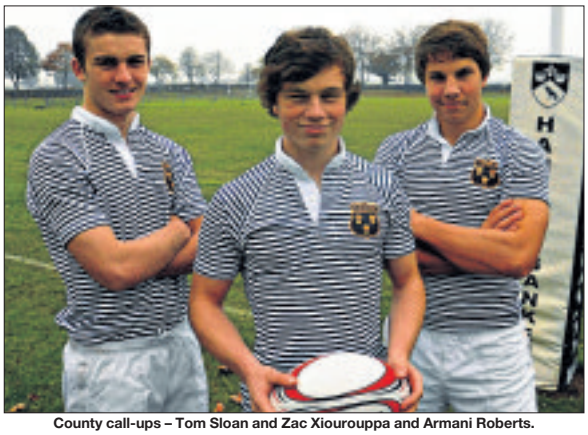
	P	W	D	L	Dif	Pts
Talbot D	11	9	1	1	44	19
Breidden Lions	10	8	1	1	36	17
Cock A	11	7	2	2	18	16
Pheasant Nomads	11	6	2	3	26	14
Oak A	11	6	2	3	18	14
Angel A	11	4	6	1	0	14
Cobra	11	3	4	4	12	10
Castle Boys	11	3	3	5	-18	9
The Lions Lsfd	10	2	4	4	0	8
C'rthouse Judges	10	3	1	5	-18	7
Socialites	11	2	2	7	-18	6
Angel A	11	1	2	8	-42	4
Angel B	11	1	0	10	-52	2

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	Dif	Pts
Punchbowl A	11	9	1	1	28	19
Talbot Topdogs	11	9	0	2	22	18
Horse & Jockey	11	6	1	4	8	13
Breidden Tigers	12	5	3	4	8	13
Cock Brockton	11	5	2	4	2	12
Talbot Flunkies	11	5	1	5	12	11
Oak B	11	4	3	4	10	11
Callow Inn	11	3	5	3	6	11
Cock B	11	4	3	4	0	11
Pheasant B	11	3	4	4	-2	10
Westwood Warriors	11	3	3	5	-18	9
Welly Dukes	11	2	2	7	-22	6
Herbert Arms	11	0	0	11	-54	0

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	Dif	Pts
Black Lion Llfr	12	9	2	1	48	20
Lion Llansantffraid	12	10	0	2	36	20
Social Club B	12	7	3	2	30	17
Crown A	12	5	5	2	8	15
Lowfield	12	7	1	4	6	15
Horseshoe	12	5	3	4	16	13
Courthouse B	12	5	2	5	2	12
Kings Head G'fld	12	4	4	4	-12	12
Punchbowl B	12	4	3	5	2	11
Westwood Slayers	12	3	3	6	-8	9
Dragon Buttington	12	2	3	7	-22	7
Crown Studs	12	3	1	8	-24	7
Pinewood	12	3	1	8	-24	7
Welly Wasps	12	0	3	9	-56	3



County call-ups – Tom Sloan and Zac Xiourouppa and Armani Roberts.

Ellesmere trio in county selection

HARD work has paid off for three Ellesmere College pupils who have been called to play rugby at county level.

Year 9 pupils, Tom Sloan and Zac Xiourouppa, as well as Armani Roberts in Year 8, have been selected for the Shropshire under-14 squad.

They have been training with the squad every Wednesday night at Telford Rugby Football Club and have had the opportunity recently to play in their first under-14 county match together.

Alex Murphy, head of rugby, said he was delighted the three had done enough to earn county recognition.

He said: "The trio were selected to represent Shropshire in a match against Herefordshire last Sunday.

"This selection has been the result of hard work put into training since the beginning of the season.

"Hopefully they will continue to maintain this work ethic and regularly feature for the Shropshire side."

Talbot setting hot pace

THE Talbot D and the Breidden Lions lead the Andrew's Fish Bar Welshpool Pool League Premiership after big wins last week.

The Talbot D remain top after inflicting a 2nd consecutive defeat on the Oak A (7-3), who now face a must win game against the Breidden Lions after they mauled the Angel B 9-1.

The Cock A Forden drop to third, but were happy with a point after rallying from 5-2 down to the Angel A to eventually draw 5-all.

The Pheasant Nomads jump two places to 4th as a result of their brilliant 9-1 win over Courthouse Judges, and there were good 6-4 away wins also, for both Castle Boys and Lions Llansantffraid against Cobra Meifod and the Socialites respectively.

The Punchbowl A Llandrinio still lead the Fish Bar division 1 after they came through a close game against the Pheasant B 6-4.

Their lead has been cut to just one point however, as the Talbot kept the pressure on by winning on consecutive nights. They fought off a tough challenge from the Oak B 6-4, and then defeated Callow Inn 7-3 the following night.

The Breidden Tigers lose ground to the leaders after a 5-5 draw with the Cock B Forden, but it's the Cock Brockton who yo-yo four places back up the table after an 8-2 win at the Welly Dukes.

The Talbot Flunkies suffered a surprise defeat to a scratch Westwood Warriors team, but Callow Inn still rise two places despite defeat to Talbot, as they get their third win of the season at the Herbert Arms 6-4.

It's threatening to become a three horse race in the Fish Bar division 2, after joint leaders Lion Llansantffraid defeat 4th placed Crown A 7-3.

The Black Lion stay top on frame difference after a 4-4 draw at the Westwood Slayers, and third placed Social Club B wait for any slip above after defeating Crown Studs 6-4.

The Lowfield retain title hopes as they defeat the Welly Wasps 8-2 and sit 5 points adrift, but a surprise 6-4 defeat at the Dragon Buttington see the Horseshoe Ardleen start to fall away.

The Dragon rise two places after that effort but remain behind Courthouse B and King's Head Guilsfield who drew their match, and the Punchbowl B after their draw with the Pinewood Tavern.

Eight is great as super Eagles win again to hit top of table

OSWESTRY find themselves riding high at the top of the South Lancs/Cheshire 2 after reeling off their eighth win on the bounce with a 29-10 home success over Southport.

Two tries from No 8 Tom Thorpe and further scores from Rob Massam, Jim Dilks and Ivor Hughes completed the success, earning the Eagles a bonus point in the process.

Their visitors arrived at Park Hall hoping to turn around a narrow home defeat, but the Eagles were in no mood to slip up and showed their intentions with an early try.

From the kick off Nathan Parker rose well to take the ball out of the air and to thrust his way to the Southport 22, before being tackled.

However, Oswestry kept the ball and fed the backs with top try scorer Massam crashing through to score under the posts, Andy Howell kicking the conversion, with Southport still to touch the ball.

For the next 25 minutes both sides tested each others' solid defence, while the referee also seemed to want a hand in the game when penalising both sides for dubious reasons.

Howell now showed his expertise of kicking out of hand and kept pinning Southport back in their 22. After the Southport wing dropped the ball, the Eagles' speedy Ivor Hughes raced onto the ball and sped towards the line only to be brought down 10 metres short.

However, from the resulting scrum, the Oswestry pack pushed the visitors over the line with Dilks pouncing for an unconverted try.

From the kick-off the hosts gathered and set up a maul, but some of the Southport forwards appeared to come in from the to side to steal the ball and cross the line to reduce the arrears.

Stunned, Oswestry now stepped up their game with Sam Wright and Dan Samuels leading by example with numerous tackles and strong runs.

Battering

And they stretched their lead again when Howells chipped behind the defence for Hughes to kick on and picked up to score, with Howells adding the conversion.

The hosts then made it 24-5 at half time with another touchdown. Another good turnover by Sam Wright set Oswestry going forward again with Guy Howell and Mike Keavney battering at the Southport defense.

The Park Hall men were awarded a line-out 20 metres out, Dan Samuels won good ball and, from the powerful drive, Thorpe crossed.

Southport started the second half with purpose and reduced the arrears with an unconverted try.

But Oswestry returned to ascendancy, Howell releasing the backs with Gaz Hughes, Gareth Morris and Sam Martin all looking dangerous.

From a well run ball Oswestry were awarded a scrum 10 metres out, and pushed over with Thorpe touching down for his second try of the game.

The home side ran the ball at every opportunity, but were unable to add to their tally.

One close call saw Howell run the ball out of defence, found Massam who raced 80 metres before being tackled close to the Southport line.

Man-of-the match went to Andrew Smith who was instrumental in the Oswestry dominance in the scrum.

RUGBY
by John Bridgwater

In-form COBRA out to pile pain on Wrexham

COBRA bid to keep up the pressure on the pacesetters in the Welsh League division two (north) when they host rock-bottom Wrexham on Saturday.

Trailing leaders Dolgellau by two points and having played one more game, the Meifod men will be anxious to gain maximum return against their struggling visitors.

And they can go into the encounter in good spirits after storming past Aberystwyth University 53-0 to reach the fourth round of the Swalec Bowl last Saturday.

"They weren't a bad side, but we played well and scored some good team tries," said coach James Watkin.

"We scored three tries in the first 15 minutes which put the game to bed.

"It was a good all-round performance with the forwards getting on the end of some good moves to score tries.

"We'll certainly be confident of beating Wrexham who have suffered some big defeats this season.

"But we won't be taking anything for granted as you're never quite sure what sort of side they'll bring with them."

The Meifod men showed no mercy on the students as they ran in nine tries last Saturday with then kind of performance that underlines just when they are in the title reckoning in the league this season.

Chipped in

Three early scores put them on course for victory, with No8 Dorian Lloyd finishing with a hat-trick of touchdowns while there were two touchdowns for flanker Aled Davies.

Fly half Llew Williams, wingmen Richard Jones and Matt Jones, and second row Lloyd Bright also touched down following fine team moves, while Williams also chipped in with four conversions.

With COBRA making a flying start, Lloyd got the ball rolling with the first try and Williams soon added a second in the early stages, both converted by Williams. Wing Richard Jones made it 19-0 with a third touchdown that was unconverted.

That was how the score stayed until the second half before a six try burst in a half hour spell forced the students into submission, with Lloyd completing his hat-trick to lead the way.

The scoreline could have been greater but for a over zealous referee while Williams did not have the best of days with the boot, seeing three efforts hit the post.

While their first team march on, COBRA II went out of the Mid Wales Cup with a 13-3 exit at Newtown, although the encounter had been in the balance for most part.

And it was a disappointing day for COBRA's youngsters who suffered their first loss of the season in the North Wales Youth League division one with a 33-7 defeat at Mold, having been 33-0 down at half time.

Welshpool's winning hockey team who sit in the middle of the league table entering the Christmas break. Back, from left, Chloe Jones, Hannah Roberts, Sarah Thomas, Julie Griffith, Rhian Davies, Sarah Philpott, Hayley Iove, Nia Jones and Alex Cawthra. Front, from left, Ellie Fielden, Lucy Davies, Sonja Evans, captain Cerys Bills, Sarah Williams, Kelly Evans and Ceri-Lee Evans. *Picture: Pete Flemmich*

HOCKEY
by John Bridgwater

Oswestry look to end year on high

OSWESTRY'S hockey players were left kicking their heels last Saturday as their home clash with high-riding Kingswinford in the ENER-G West Midlands League division two was called off due to a frozen pitch.

It was the second week in a row that the border club had no game after their trip to Kynoch was cancelled the previous Saturday when their rivals were unable to raise a side, with Oswestry subsequently being awarded the win.

Having originally had no game planned tomorrow, the league have now rearranged the Kingswinford clash. Push back is at 1pm at Marches School as the border side look to end the year on a winning note.

But will be at tough ask as Kingswinford are going well, currently lying second in the table with just one defeat.

After Saturday, Oswestry take a break before tackling Bromsgrove on January, 14 with a noon start.

WELSHPOOL Ladies saw their clash with basement side Ffestiniog Ladies called as their rivals were unable to raise a side. Handed a 3-0 win, they are now lying fifth in the North Wales Womens League division one.

Pool's next action is a trip to Rhyl on Saturday, January 7.

Latest from the Airgun hot-shots

THE latest round of the Montgomeryshire Airgun League were as follows: Four Crosses 196.4 – 203.5 Churchstoke, Llanfair Caereinion 195.4 – 190.7 Guilsfield B, Crew Green 195.5 – 204.0 Guilsfield A, Arddleen 204.7 – 189.4 Castle Caereinion.

Possible scores of the week: Jane Thomas (Churchstoke), Dai Williams (Llanfair Caereinion) – 35.6 Richard Lewis (Arddleen) – 35.5, Ken Llewelyn (Churchstoke) – 35.4, Ian Smythe (Four Crosses), Dave Smith and Andy Lawrence (both of Guilsfield A) – 35.3, Nick Parr (Arddleen) – 35.2

Highest individual score of each team. Arddleen: Richard Lewis 35.5, Castle Caer: Steve Goode 33.1, Churchstoke: Jane Thomas 35.6, Crew Green: Edward Kelton 34.5, Four Crosses: Ian Smythe 35.3, Guilsfield A: Dave Smith, Andy Lawrence 35.3, Guilsfield B : Paul Edwards 33.3, Llanfair Caer: Dai Williams 35.6.

Tudor returns with a try

WITH three teams from the club in action, a depleted Oswestry III went down 47-17 to Birkenhead Park IV.

Park brought their Colts, and with their old pack and young backs, they tore their hosts apart in the first half.

The ball was fed out quickly and the tall centre caused mayhem with the backs scoring most of their points.

Oswestry realised they needed to keep the ball away from their rival backs so tried rolling mauls to keep it tight.

They rumbled forward with the outstanding Tony Winstanley the pick of the Os players, taking the ball to the line before captain Mark Jones smuggled over from a one metre drive.

The second half was better with Park's colts running out of steam and Eagles playing controlled rugby.

A penalty was tapped and Jason Whitley launched himself before touching the ball down.

Park scored two tries with their captain Keith Jones blasting through but the champagne moment came when Tudor Jones, returning to play at the club after a four-year exile, sidestepped his way over the line.

This gave Oswestry a little lift by winning the second half, even though they lost big Rich Allan with a hamstring injury.

The Eagles plan a trip to Birkenhead in the spring to return the compliment.

Sluggish start but Os come good for win

ONCE again it took a wake-up call from the opposition before Oswestry II moved up to third in the University of Salford NWL League division four (south) with a 26-7 win at Whitchurch III.

The home side went ahead with a converted try on 15 minutes when their No8 broke from the back of a scrum 10 metres out and went over under the posts unopposed for an easy score.

Some stern words by stand-in captain, Dave Richardson, appeared to have the desired effect and the Oswestry defence improved dramatically, knocking back several attempts by Whitchurch's bulky forwards to breach their line.

The Whitchurch full-back tried to test winger Luke Parks with some high balls but soon gave up as Parks gathered cleanly and took the ball back with purpose courtesy of some powerful runs.

He was unlucky not to score on one such run when stopped short by two defenders but the ball was quickly recycled to allow powerful back-row, Jake Northwood, to go over for a converted try and to level the scores going in to half-time.

Oswestry dominated the play for much of the second period thanks mainly to the superior fitness of their younger players such as Dan Williams, Gaz Ellis and Dave Shaw.

Exploited

As the opposition tired gaps appeared in the Whitchurch defence which were exploited by the speedsters with Dan Williams, Rich McFee and Kelvin Wilford all bagging a try and the trusty boot of Williams adding two conversions to give the Eagles a comfortable win and keep them in contention for league honours.

Meanwhile **OSWESTRY UNDER-17 COLTS**, were locked in a remarkable 0-0 draw with their Burnley counterparts.

Despite the unusual scoreline, it was a highly entertaining game played in atrocious weather conditions which made lift difficult for both sides.

Although the Oswestry side struggled against a much heavier Burnley pack, their defence was superb with captain Phil Marshall leading by example.

Burnley tried to run the ball through their backs but were thwarted by fine tackling from centres 'Chilly' Yale and Iran Lane.

In the forwards flanker Brad Arnold stood out for his excellent rucking and was awarded Oswestry's man of the match.

The Eaglets were unlucky not to break the stalemate late on when scrum half Jack Fox made a dazzling run from his own half, but he slipped at the vital moment just 10 metres from the line.

From the continued play Burnley were penalised for holding on to the ball giving Luca Owen-Youens an attempt at goal but put his kick wide in the wind.

Bright day as Lions ease to comfortable cup romp

THE goals flowed as Oswestry Lions swept aside Three Lions 11-1 in the second round of the Shropshire Junior Cup at Park Hall.

Oswestry Lions were happy to get a home draw for tie against the Telford Combination side and took full advantage in a one-sided affair.

Having not played at home since the start of the season in September, Nick Maguire's men didn't take long to settle down and get back to the type of football they showed in the pre and early season.

Again, the league's top scorer Scott Bright was among the goals by netting four times, with Martin Cheeseman helping himself to a hat-trick.

There were also goals from Graeme Kirkham,Graham Dyke,new signing Aaron Nancini and a penalty by Lions keeper Lee Davies to complete the tally.

The Lions are again at the Venue at Park Hall again on Saturday with a tough league game against Hanwood Reserves (2pm) as they look to maintain their good run of form.

Lions on a mission

OSWESTRY Lions are having a busy time on and off the pitch, with a race night in aid of Marie Curie cancer care. The night, in conjunction with sponsors Milk Link, raised £250 which was handed over to the Cheese Factory before being passed to the charity. Pictured from left: Oswestry Lions chairman Ian Jones presents the cheque to Cheese Factory human resources manager Lyndsey Edwards and factory manager Duncan Crawford.

Parry at double as Malpas seal win

MALPAS won a hard fought North Shropshire Sunday League game 2-0 at Llanymynech.

The visitors took the lead against the run of play when Lee Parry broke from the half way line took the ball around the Llanymynech 'keeper and shot into an empty net.

Llanymynech's Jamie Phillips headed just wide just before half time.

Poking

Malpas went 2-0 up on 62 minutes with Parry riding a couple of desperate tackles before poking the ball into the corner of the net.

Malpas hit the woodwork on 70 minutes when Parry squared a ball across the box to Danny Lloyd who rattled the underside of the cross bar.

Llanymynech to their credit battled right to the final whistle and both Grant Jones and Jamie Grafton went close to scoring.

Llanymynech are a much improved side, said the visitor's Dave Barrett.

Heath hit back hard to leave Bell reeling

DUDLESTON Heath came from behind to beat Oswestry Bell 5-3 and leapfrog above them and into second spot.

Dylan Ellis gave the Bell the lead with Paul Mitchell equalizing.

Damon Cheesman then gave Dudleston a 2-1 lead.

Bell came back leveling through Nick Davies.

Dudleston went ahead again through the league's leading scorer Guy Guilford, but again the Bell hit back with Callum Bromley making it 3-3.

But two goals by player manager Darren Pitcher secured the points for the villagers in what was a thrilling contest.

Athletico stroll to big away romp

WILL Gilbert gave the Athletico Market a fifth minute lead at The Ironworks on their way to a comprehensive 4-0 win.

Ironworks had plenty of possession but struggled to find that bit extra in the final third.

Sam Johnston made it 2-0 on 63 minutes with Josh Sumner making it 3-0 in the 70th minute.

A fine individual run from the back and a great shot into the top corner from Liam Bailey with just two minutes to go sealed the Market's win.

Six of the best as Morda flatten stunned leaders

Meole Brace's Joel Craig (in white) defends well, despite being put under pressure from Weston Rhyn's Adam Herbert, with Meole keeper Ross Fardoe rushing in. *Picture: Iain Thomson*

IT WAS six of the best as Morda United sounded a title warning in the County League premier division with a 6-0 demolition of previous unbeaten table toppers Ketley Bank.

The Telford side arrived with an impressive record of 10 wins and four draws, having conceded only eight league goals all season.

But they were blown apart by the Weston Road men who extended their winning run to five games in fine fashion with goals from Gary Meredith and Dan Graham seeing them two up within the first five minutes.

by John Bridgwater

Graham went on to hit a hat trick before Harry Davies and Tom Coulson completed the half dozen

"Ketley came here with their strongest side so it tells you how well we played," said boss Craig Rogers.

"Having beaten Ludlow 4-1 the previous week, we were confident and we took that performance on. It was a great win, but not a big surprise as I know what we're capable of with the players we've got here."

Morda, who avenged a 3-1 loss earlier in the season, moved up to fourth in the league but are still six points behind leaders Ketley who have a game in hand.

Escaped

Weather permitting, they will hope to take their winning run to six on Saturday when they travel to face Wellington Amateurs reserves in another league encounter.

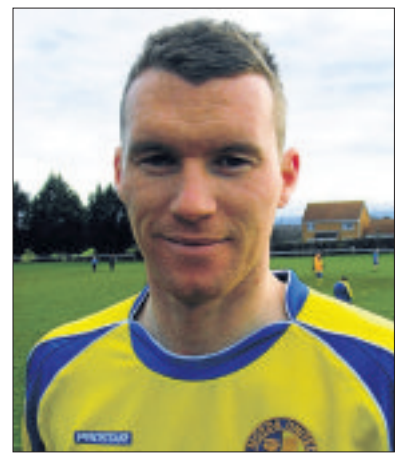
After the previous week's four-goal demolition of Ludlow in the County Cup, Morda went into the clash in buoyant mood but escaped an early scare when the ball fell to Pradeep Kumar who failed to take his chance.

But within a minute they were ahead when a near post corner found Meredith who made no mistake.

Before the visitors had recovered Dan Graham doubled the lead as the mobile home attack tore holes in the meanest defence in the league.

Ketley struggled to get into the home half but when they did, keeper Sam Jones was in commanding form dealing with some teasing crosses.

The hosts continued to dominate with Meredith enjoying his best game in a Morda shirt, twice going close before creating the third which the persistent Dan Graham tapped home five minutes before the interval.



Dan Graham, who hit a hat-trick in Morda's six goal rout of league leaders Ketley Bank United.

Any hope of a Ketley comeback was killed four minutes after the break when Dan Graham completed his hat trick after a Scott Graham cross.

Morda remained solid at the back with debutant Elliot Dyke impressing with a classy performance on the right.

With a four goal cushion manager Rogers brought on fresh legs in the form of the pacey Harry Davies and George Turner.

Davies then hit the fifth finding the top corner of the net from wide out on the right.

Former Morda favourite Chris Cathrall made a welcome return as a late substitute. His long throw enabled Tom Coulson to cap a superb personal and team performance rounding off the scoring with Morda's sixth.

● Morda reserves will provide the entertainment at Weston Road on Saturday when they entertain Newcastle in the Shropshire Junior Cup (1.30pm).

Weston Rhyn's Adam Herbert (left) closes in on Meole Brace's Leon Childs.

Weston Rhyn cruise to cup win over Meole

WESTON Rhyn are safely through to the last 16 of the Williams & Picken Shropshire Junior Cup with a 2-0 passage at Meole Brace.

Two first half goals set up the win in a low-key affair, with a number of players missing due to a bereavement locally.

Adam Herbert got the first on 10 minutes from the penalty spot and Jordan Gerrard doubled the advantage midway through the half.

After that, there was no way back for Meole who rarely looked likely to avenge a 5-0 league defeat two weeks before.

It was a welcome win for Paul Herbert's side after the previous week's disappointing 3-0 loss to Bishop's Castle that dented their promotion prospects in the County League division one.

They return to league duty on Saturday with one of their longer journeys to Ludlow reserves as they bid to stay in touch with the leaders.

That is their last action of 2011 before taking a Christmas break until Saturday, January 7.

Saints edged out in a five goal thriller

ST MARTINS were edged out in a five-goal thriller at second placed Hereford Lads Club in West Midlands League Division Two.

A scuffed clearance from keeper Carl Edwards gifted Lads the lead but he made amends with four fine saves.

Lads doubled the lead just after the break but Liam Bailey gave St Martins hope by pulling one back with 20 minutes remaining.

Hereford grabbed a third and St Martins striker Tom Mackerall was sent off for a second bookable offence just a minute later. The visitors pushed to the end and an overhead kick from Steve Evans set up a frantic finale.

Buoyant Rangers can make impact

WEATHER permitting, Ellesmere Rangers reserves bid to sign off the year in winning fashion when they visit struggling Telford side Impact United on Saturday.

Impact have suffered some real drubbings over the past few months, and prop up the County League premier division table.

It will be a good time for Rangers to play them, not just for the fact that they have been struggling on the pitch, but also because the Meresiders will have no more action until the middle of January.

Their last league action was when they thrashed Telford Juniors 5-1 back on November 26.

If Saturday's game is off, it would mean they have not played in the league for close on two months.

They were hoping to entertain County League division one side Oakengates last night as they chased a place in the last 16 of the Shropshire Junior.

But recent heavy rain had put the game in doubt with the ground becoming waterlogged.

PLACINGS

Welsh Premier League

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Llanelli AFC	19	13	3	45	19	42
Bangor City	19	13	4	41	24	41
The New Saints	19	12	3	43	23	40
Neath FC	18	9	6	36	17	33
Bala Town	19	8	5	29	23	30
Prestatyn T	19	8	8	29	26	27
Airbus UK Brghtn	19	5	7	28	33	22
Afan Lido	19	5	8	20	28	21
Port Talbot Town	18	5	10	19	29	18
Aberystwyth T	19	3	10	21	33	15
Newtown AFC	19	5	13	24	51	13
Carmarthen T	19	3	15	16	45	10

Huws Gray Cymru Alliance

	P	W	L	F	Ag	Pts
Rhyl	16	11	2	54	10	36
Gap C'nahs Quay	16	11	4	51	16	34
Porthmadog	16	10	2	37	18	34
Buckley Town	16	10	3	32	24	33
Cefn Druids	15	9	5	31	21	28
Caersws	15	10	5	41	32	27
Penrhyncoch	16	8	5	28	24	27
Flint Town United	15	8	5	33	23	26
Llandudno	16	6	5	24	21	23
Guilsfield	17	7	8	27	28	23
Conwy United	17	5	8	38	41	19
Llanrhaeadr	17	3	10	28	51	13
Penycae	16	4	11	15	45	13
Ruthin Town	17	3	11	16	41	12
Llangefni Town	16	3	13	22	58	9
Rhos Aelwyd	17	1	12	14	38	7

JT Hughes Montgomery League

Honda division one: Lanidloes Res 2 (R Evans, J Jerman), Churchstoke 0; Llansantffraid Res 0, Llanfechain 2 (R Edwards, D Hughes); Waterloo Res 2 (C Jones, I McLeod), Llangedwyn 1 (S College).

Mitsubishi division two: Kerry Res 3 (S Morgan, B Davies, M Green), Abermule Res 2 (P Rhys, og); Newtown Wanderers 1 (J Hogg), Llanfair Res 3 (D Williams 2, L Thomas).

HONDA DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Caersws Res	10	7	2	32	15	22
Lanidloes Res	12	7	5	27	29	21
Llansantffraid Res	11	6	3	29	24	20
Guilsfield Res	9	6	2	33	10	19
Llangedwyn	9	6	2	20	9	19
Llanrhaeadr Res	12	6	6	27	27	18
Waterloo Res	14	5	7	27	27	17
Bettws	10	5	5	25	27	15
Llanfechain	8	4	3	16	12	13
Carno Res	8	4	4	16	15	12
Churchstoke	10	2	8	15	31	6
Berriew Res	11	0	11	7	48	0

MITSUBISHI DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Llanfair Res	11	7	2	30	19	23
Newtown Res	12	6	4	33	21	201
Four Crosses Res	11	6	3	22	14	20
Newtown Wndrs	13	6	5	28	31	20
Morda Res	10	5	1	27	11	19
Trefonen	10	4	3	37	23	15
Kerry Res	13	4	7	18	41	14
Waterloo Colts	13	3	7	24	36	12
Llandrinio	10	3	6	17	22	10
Abermule Res	13	3	9	20	38	10

West Midlands League

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Haughmond	16	13	3	0	44	42
Hereford Lads Club	16	11	3	2	22	36
Penkridge Town	14	9	3	2	12	30
Mahal	13	9	2	2	19	29
St Martins	14	6	4	4	13	22
Wrens Nest	17	7	1	9	-7	22
Tenbury Utd	15	6	3	6	10	21
Ettingshall Pk Farm	15	6	2	7	-3	20
Riverway	12	5	3	4	9	18
Team Dudley	16	5	2	9	-9	17
Sikh Hunters	14	4	4	6	-3	16
Red Star Alma	14	3	2	9	-13	11
WTon Sporting Res	17	3	1	13	-45	10
Malvern Town Res	17	1	1	15	-49	4

Sportsjamkits.com County Premier League

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Ketley Bank Utd	15	10	1	37	14	34
Newport Town	16	11	4	26	20	34
FC Hodnet	17	9	3	33	20	32
Morda United	16	8	4	29	18	28
Ludlow Town	16	8	5	33	21	27
Telford Juniors	16	7	4	29	23	26
Church Stretton	18	6	7	32	33	23
Shifnal United 97	16	5	6	26	24	20
Wellington Am Rs	15	5	6	33	23	19
Dawley Villa	15	5	6	27	28	19
Ellesmere Rgrs Rs	16	5	8	31	29	18
Broseley Juniors	14	3	8	17	31	12
Whitchurch Alp Rs	14	2	10	17	29	8
Impact United	16	1	13	13	70	5

Coinspinner Newtown Sunday Football League

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Crown Inn	12	11	0	88	12	34
Oak Llanidloes	13	8	4	66	31	25
Elephant Wand	14	7	5	58	34	23
Cambrian	11	6	3	54	31	20
Angel Welshpool	12	5	6	55	47	16
Red Lion Caersws	12	4	8	46	44	12
Forden Utd	13	3	9	26	63	10
Raven Inn	11	1	10	18	149	3

The Roche North Shropshire Sunday Football League

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
The Oak	10	8	1	1	50	25
Dudleston Heath	11	7	2	2	36	23
Oswestry Bell	10	7	1	2	61	22
Cross Foxes	9	5	2	2	12	17
Black Lion Colts	10	5	1	4	1	16
Malpas	10	5	1	4	-10	16
Athletico Market	12	4	2	6	-17	14
Ironworks	11	1	0	10	-69	3
Llanymynech	11	0	0	11	-64	0

Shropshire Girls and Women's League

U/11 Red: Shrewsbury Juniors 10, Whitchurch 0; Wrekin Juniors 3, Llanymynech 2.

Stonehouse Brewery Oswestry & District Dominoes League

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Black Lion B	12	10	0	50	22	22
Bell Oswestry	12	6	3	43	29	15
White Lion	12	6	3	39	33	15
Horseshoe	12	6	4	39	33	14
Black Lion A	12	5	3	37	35	14
Bradford Arms	12	4	3	40	32	13
Cross Keys	12	5	5	38	34	12
Royal Oak	12	5	5	35	37	12
Top White Lion	12	5	5	34	38	12
Railway Inn	11	5	6	31	35	10
Penybont Inn	11	3	5	29	37	9
Plas Yn Dinas A	12	3	7	31	41	8
Plas Yn Dinas B	12	3	7	28	44	8
Black Horse	12	0	10	24	48	2

Royal Oak 4, Penybont Inn 2; Black Lion A 4, Plas Yn Dinas B 2; White Lion Lynclys 3, Black Lion B 3; Cross Keys 2, Railway Inn 4; Bradford Arms 3, Black Horse 3; Plas Yn Dinas 3, Top White Lion 3; Bell 2, Horseshoe 4.

SWALEC League

DIVISION 2 NORTH

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Dolgellau	10	9	1	297	81	44
COBRA	11	10	1	239	120	42
Rhyl	9	7	2	333	98	36
Colwyn Bay	11	6	5	300	197	30
Denbigh	11	5	5	212	204	26
Llanidloes	11	5	6	204	187	24
Machynlleth	11	5	6	136	317	22
Abergele	11	7	7	172	296	19
Newtown	10	1	8	129	239	8
Wrexham	11	0	11	101	384	3

DIVISION 3 NORTH

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Shotton Steel	9	9	0	554	70	44
Rhosllanerchrugog	9	7	2	493	70	44
Llangollen	8	7	1	260	76	33
Flint	9	6	3	261	223	28
Harlech	9	5	4	256	230	26
Menai Bridge	9	4	5	164	266	21
Welshpool	9	3	6	168	312	13
Benllech	9	2	7	72	218	10
Holyhead	8	1	7	78	390	5
Bangor	9	0	9	43	467	1

Saints need to learn lessons after draw at Aber

Aberystwyth Town 1
The New Saints 1

THE New Saints slipped to third in the Welsh Premier despite Greg Draper's 11th goal of the season earning them a share of the spoils against lowly Aberystwyth at Park Avenue.

The Oswestry side had started the weekend joint top, but were overtaken by Bangor City who were 2-1 winners over Bala the night before.

And Llanelli, who had held pole position on goal difference, extended their lead to one point at the top with a 3-2 home win over Prestatyn.

Having lost ground, the Saints will be out to get back on the winning track in another potentially tricky excursion to basement side Carmarthen Town this Saturday.

And head coach Carl Darlington says his side will need to learn from the draw against Aberystwyth, who deservedly earned a share of the spoils with a battling display.

"I think overall a draw was a fair result but we had our chances," he said.

"We had two one-on-ones in the first 10 minutes and missed a great chance to have won it at the end when Greg hit the bar from just a yard out when it was almost easier to score than miss.

"We knew what to expect from Aber, they have some they good players and are far better than their league position suggests. It was bit of a wake-up call."

Visitors

Right from the off there were chances, with Alex Darlington beating the home offside trap and finding himself clear in on goal, but he was denied by a great save from Steve Cann.

Aeron Edwards then fired wide from a good position while Draper also went close for the visitors.

For Aber, Sean Thornton sent a couple of shots over, then Lewis Codling showed some trickery and found himself straight in on goal, but was denied by a last gasp tackle from Phil Baker.

Aber started the second half strongly, and Kellaway in particular was a handful up front and was rewarded with his seventh goal in six games.

The deadlock was broken 10 minutes after half-time when a slip by Chris Marriott allowed Codling to feed Kellaway, who fired an angled drive beyond the reach of keeper Paul Harrison and into the far corner.

That advantage, however, lasted just eight minutes before an excellent crossfield ball found Craig Jones on the right, whose cross was hooked home from close range by Draper.

TNS upped the tempo after that and started to control proceedings, although Aber's man-of-the-match Kellaway fired a shot across the face of goal and then blazed over from a Jordan Follows pass.

But the Saints should have claimed the spoils in the dying moments when home keeper Cann fumbled an Edwards cross and Draper somehow spooned his shot onto the bar from point-blank range.

Junior football scene

UNDER 8
Welshpool 2
Llanymynech 4

THE under 8s had a great win today in a friendly match against Welshpool under 9s coming away with a 4-2 win against a team one year older.

The goals came from Josh Wynne(2) Thomas Williams and Tom Pugh. Man of the match Keegan Wilson.

UNDER 11
Prees 6 Llanymynech 1

Llanymynech lost 6-1 away at Prees. It was even first half with Prees scoring just before the break and when Prees scored two early goals in the second half it left Llanymynech chasing the game.

Adam Hayward got the consolation goal. Man of the Match was Bailee Austin

UNDER 12 DRAGONS
Meole Brace 3
Llanymynech Dragons 1

First half was a real battle between two equally matched sides. First goal went to Meole slightly against the run of play.

The Dragons dug deep as usual and secured a well deserved equalizer through a cool finish from Bradley Emberton.

Llanymynech's task was made more difficult however as they had to play the second half with only 10 players due to injury.

Adam Gordon and Connor Kynaston put in fantastic performances at full back and underlined just how much they have improved over recent weeks, they were supported well by Harri Matthews at centre back.

The Dragons pushed their opponents all the way in this game and were finishing the stronger but couldn't find the net having been unlucky to concede two goals themselves in the second half.

The boys never gave an inch and having displayed a great team spirit playing and for encouraging each other the whole team receives the man of the match this week.

UNDER 14
Whitchurch Alport 7
Llanymynech 2

Llanymynech under-14's appeared to have started the Christmas holidays early and gifted Whitchurch Alport three presents in the first 10 minutes of the game.

The game could have quickly been out of reach but Llanymynech started to play football and were rewarded with a goal.

The second half saw Llanymynech play some good football and scored another well worked goal.

However, due to the heroics of the home keeper Llanymynech were unable to add to their tally and a couple of late deflected goals gave the scoreline a more flattering look for the home side.

Llanymynech eventually lost 7-2. Goalscorers were Harry Edwards and Gareth Evans. Man-of-the-mach was Lewis Marston.

UNDER 16
Llanymynech 5
Baschurch 2

The under 16s played host to Baschurch and as always both teams were a great advert for junior football.

Llanymynech put in an excellent team display with every player contributing to a great game.

A great opening header from Jake Price, a superb 60 yard run and strike from Sean Griffiths and a fantastic hat-trick from captain Iwan Mathews have Llanymynech the win.

This was a great display from all players including several incredible saves from Dan Turner, any one could have picked up man of the match but Jake Price just edged it with a Roberto Carlos display at left back.

The final score was 5-2 with Baschurch competitive to the final whistle.

At the end of the game the club and team-mates presented a signed Arsenal shirt to Gwyn Davies following his recent accident, many thanks to head coach Doug Johnson and Arsenal Football Club.

UNDER 11 GIRLS
Wrekin 3 Llanymynech 2

The Under 11 girls traveled to Wrekin and despite a great team effort lost 3-2.

Llanymynech played the whole game with no subs and were up against a strong Wrekin side who had a total of eight players on the bench.

Goals from Tash Powell and a delightful free kick from Beth Lewis.

UNDER 12 WANDERERS
Oswestry Wanderers 6
Market Drayton 3

A good performance by Oswestry, and they kept up their recent good run of form.

Goals were scored by Brandon Rogers (4), Will Baker and Lewis Birch.

UNDER 14
Oswestry 3 Shrewsbury Up & Comers Ospreys 1

A fantastic team effort to win away at the previously unbeaten Ospreys.

Goals from Tom Worswick (2) and Harry Hampson.

UNDER 15 COLTS
Bayston Hill 4
Oswestry Colts 7

Played away at Bayston Hill and after a shaky start going 1-0 down it was an even 2-2 at half time.

At the turn around Oswestry started to take advantage but it was a game where the eventual score did not give justice to the effort of the 10 men of Bayston Hill.

Scorers for Oswestry were a brace each from Taleasin Davies and Dan Williams and individual efforts from Lewis Jones, Luke Riley and Liam Jones.

UNDER 16
Oswestry 1 Saha 2

Kyle Stephenson got the only goal for Oswestry.

Turner Peachey
Shropshire Junior
League Results

Under 11 Blue: Up & Comers Hawks 9, Up & Comers Eagles 0; Saha Colts 3, Prees Tigers 6 ; Prees Jaguars 6, Llanymynech 1; Worthen 8, Whitchurch Alport 0.

Under 11 Red: Ellesmere Rangers 5, Baschurch 2; Shawbury United 7, Saha Buccaneers 1; Oswestry 1, Meole Brace 3; Market Drayton Tigers Colts 5, Market Drayton Tigers 1; Shrewsbury 4, Shrewsbury Colts 1.

Under 12 Blue: Market Drayton Tigers 0, Sporting Colts 4; Shrewsbury Colts 3, Prees Pumas 3.

Under 12 Green: Shrewsbury 1, Saha Chargers 2; Oswestry Wanderers 6, Market Drayton Tigers Colts 3.

Under 12 Red: Saha Galaxy 5, Frankwell Wanderers 2; Meole Brace 3, Llanymynech Dragons 1.

Under 13A: Baschurch 0, Worthen 2; Sporting Colts 2, Shrewsbury 4; Saha Buccaneers 4, Prees Tigers 2.

Under 13B: Church Stretton Magpies 3, Oswestry 0; Up & Comers Eagles 2, Saha Mustangs 2; Bayston Hill 8, Meole Brace 0; Whitchurch Alport 2, Up & Comers Hawks 7.

Under 14A: Market Drayton Tigers 9, Baschurch Pumas 2; Up & Comers Hawks 3 ,Up & Comers Eagles 1; Shrewsbury 6, Shawbury United 0; Saha Patriots 0, Meole Brace 2.

Under 14B: Up & Comers Harriers 6, Gobowen Youth 2; Whitchurch Alport 7, Llanymynech 2; Up & Comers Ospreys 1, Oswestry 3; Market Drayton Tigers Colts 5, Onny 5 ; Worthen 9, Whitchurch Alport Colts 0.

Under 15A: Up & Comers Hawks 1, Shrewsbury Colts 1; Shawbury United 0, Prees Panthers 3;

Whitchurch Alport 2, Ludlow Town 3.

Under 15B: Bayston Hill 4, Oswestry Colts 7; Shrewsbury 1, Saha Sharks 1; Baschurch Raiders 2, Market Drayton Tigers 6; Stretton Red Rovers 0, Up & Comers Eagles 9;

Under 16A: Llanymynech 5, Baschurch Bullets 2; Saha 2, Oswestry 1; Meole Brace 2, Market Drayton Tigers 3; Shrewsbury Colts 3, Shrewsbury 2.

Under 16B: Church Stretton Magpies 5, Bayston Hill 0; Whitchurch Alport 1, Up & Comers 7.

Guils left disappointed with a point against high-flying Rhyl

FOOTBALL
by John Bridgwater

GUILSFIELD have shown they can match the best in the Cymru Alliance – and will look to continue their resurgence at home to Cefn Druids tomorrow night.

Will Thomas maintained his fine campaign with his 13th league goal as the Guils finished 1-1 with high-flying Rhyl last Saturday, with only a penalty from Jason Oswell denying them a sixth straight win.

But the villagers can take plenty of heart from the display as they look to maintain their climb up the table following a sluggish start to the season.

Boss Russell Cadwallader was heartened by the performance, as the Guils showed they have come a long way since twice being outplayed by the Seasiders earlier in the season.

"I would have taken a point before the game but afterwards I was a bit disappointed we didn't win it," he said.

"We had chances, we hit the post, missed a one-on-one while their keeper made one superb save, but overall we've got to be happy with the point which showed how far we've come.

"Rhyl had a lot of possession but didn't really open us up."

Deflection

He added: "We've now got Cefn Druids tomorrow who are big and physical. It will be a different sort of challenge, they beat us earlier in the season, but it's another chance for us to show how we've improved."

After a goalless first half, the Guils went ahead after the break when an angled 20-yard strike from Thomas took a deflection before finding the net.

But the visitors were soon back on terms when Jonathan Jones was unfortunate to clip the legs of a visiting striker and Oswell dispatched the penalty.

Guilsfield would reflect they had chances to have won the game, Thomas rattling the post while good work by Thomas and Gareth Jones released Danny Barton but the forward was denied by the keeper when through on goal.

Barton also brought a stunning save from the keeper with a terrific header as the encounter ended all square.

Villagers miss the chance to go top

LLANSANTFFRAID Village reserves missed a chance of going top of the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division one after slipping to a 2-0 home loss at the hands of Llanfechain.

Goals from Rob Edwards and Dan Hughes gave the visitors the spoils, leaving Llansantffraid in third spot, and two points off the pace.

Churchstoke remain in the basement zone after going down 2-0 at Llanidloes reserves who themselves moved into second spot thanks to strikes from Rhys Evans and Josh Jarman.

Waterloo reserves are pushing towards mid-table courtesy of their 2-1 home verdict against Llangedwyn.

Chris Jones and Ian McLeod were on the mark for Rovers, with Sam College responding for the visitors who remain two points above their hosts.

Llanfair reserves opened up a three point lead at the top of the Mitsubishi division two with a comfortable 3-1 success over Newtown Wanderers.

Dafydd Williams netted twice, with Llyr Thomas getting the other, while Jeff Hogg responded for Wanderers.

Meanwhile Abermule reserves remain at the foot of the table after a narrow 3-2 defeat at Kerry reserves.

Goals from Sam Morgan (penalty), Ben Davies and Mark Green were enough to give Kerry the victory.

Phil Ryle replied for Abermule who also benefitted from an own goal.

Waterloo Rovers who avoided a cup upset this weekend line up to face the camera. Back, from left, David Roberts, Mark Proctor, captain Scott Holley, Matt McWhinnie, Will Pritchard, Declan Foster, Dave Roberts and Gareth Turner. Front, from left, Peter Brooks, Ian MacLeod, Ricky Litchfield, Steve Jones, Sam Andrews and Chris Proctor.

Picture: Pete Flemmich

Four Crosses delight over Pool cup romp

FOUR Crosses, flying high in division two of the Spar Mid Wales League division two, sent first division strugglers Welshpool Town crashing to an 8-0 exit as they stormed into the quarter-finals.

Paul Hughes led the charge with a hat-trick, while Jack Harris scored twice and Gareth Jones, Elliott Howes and Michael Bebb also found the net to pile on the misery for nine-man Pool.

The visitors were always up against it after having keeper Gary Foster sent off early in the game while a second dismissal after the interval did not help their cause as they crashed out.

Llansantffraid Village narrowly progressed 4-3 on penalties at Aberystwyth University after the tie had finished goalless.

Waterloo Rovers avoided any shocks as they secured a 2-0 passage at second division Bont while Berriew won by the same margin at Llanfair United thanks to a brace from Dan Dawson, while the hosts had two players sent off.

Llanidloes Town gained sweet revenge as they booked their ticket for the last eight with a 2-0 passage at old adversaries Newbridge.

Having lost twice in the league and also in the FAW Trophy to their hosts, the Daffs were happy to put the record straight with Jamie Breese and Nefyn Savage on target.

It was the end of the road for Abermule who were pipped 2-1 at Machynlleth in the second round.

Presteigne crashed 8-0 at home to Llandrindod Wells, while Builth Wells won 7-6 on penalties after their tie at home to Tywyn Bryncrug finished 4-4.

Montgomery Town swept aside lowly Dyffryn Banw 6-1 to stay firmly in the title chase in the Spar Mid Wales League division one. It was their second win over Banw this season.

Rhayader Town remain one point clear at the top after winning 1-0 at Bow Street, Rhys Thomas firing a last-gasp winner.

Carno consolidated mid-table with a 2-0 success at Dolgellau with Greg Brown and Thomas Richards on target.

Meifod's miserable season continued at the foot of the Spar Mid Wales League division two when they crashed 8-0 at home to 10-man local rivals Llanfyllin.

Cody Smart netted four times for the visitors while Paul Smart scored once before being sent off.

Glenn Evans, Tamir Law and Bartek Wieczorek also found the net.

Kerry lost ground on the leaders afar being dumped 4-0 at Talgarth.

Weather woes for Rangers

FRUSTRATION was the name of the game for Ellesmere Rangers for the second time in four days.

Fresh from their home clash with Coleshill being called off due to a frozen pitch on Saturday, waterlogging proved the problem as their Midland Alliance trip to Stratford on Tuesday night went the same way.

It left goalkeeper David Maguire, a recent recruit from Shifnal Town, still waiting for his debut.

Ellesmere, and Maguire, will hope to get back in action this weekend when Rangers host high-flying Causeway United at Beech Grove.

The home side are in desperate need of points having slipped into the bottom three of the table in recent weeks.

Matt Burton's men are without a league victory since October 1, a run of seven games.

Llanrhaeadr still looking anxiously over their shoulders

LLANRHAEADR will be out to return to winning ways on Saturday when they host fellow newcomers Conwy United – who have recently parted company with their management team – in a crunch home clash (2pm).

Despite being edged out 2-1 at home to Cefn Druids, the villagers remain fifth from bottom as results elsewhere were quite favourable with two sides below losing and the other two drawing.

But boss Mario Iaquinta knows his side cannot keep relying on their rivals dropping points if they hope to avoid slipping into the bottom three for the first time this season.

"We're still feeling positive, everyone had us cut adrift and relegated by Christmas but we've proved them wrong," he said.

"We'll keep going, keep chipping away and if anyone's not doing their Christmas shopping we'd like their support on Saturday.

"The crowds have been good this season, the lads are giving it their best shot but not getting what they deserve."

Iaquinta felt Saturday's reverse was a case in point when they suffered a narrow defeat despite creating plenty of chances.

"We should have picked up at least a point against the Druids," he added.

"We dominated the second half, and they certainly didn't look like a side challenging for the league."

Llanrhaeadr hope to be close to full strength for the first time this season, with Ben White and Josh Wood set to return while Mattie Evans was back in the frame last week after a year out with a broken leg.

They now set their sights on a Conwy side who arrive on the back of management changes at the club following the resignation of Steve Jones and Dean Martin from the helm.

Iaquinta could take heart from their performance last week, a vast improvement than when side lost 5-1 on the opening night of the season.

The Druids' main threat came from long throws and free kicks, and it was from two throws that they pounced on the loose ball to go two goals up inside the half hour through Tom McElmeel and Keiran Quinn.

But the hosts gave themselves hope when Alun Jones pulled one back on the stroke of half time, firing home after Jamie Evans had flicked on a cross from stand-in forward Adam Burgess.

Llanrhaeadr pushed in the second period with Burgess, Evans and Jones all going close but they could not find a way through.

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Sports Desk 01691 668094 www.oswestrychronicle.com e-mail: sport@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Coach in wake up call after TNS held

by John Bridgwater

AFTER dropping valuable points, The New Saints bid to re-assert their Welsh Premier title ambitions in Saturday's trip to rock-bottom Camarthen Town (3.45pm).

Last week's disappointing televised 1-1 draw at lowly Aberystwyth Town has seen the Saints now slip down to third, two points adrift of leaders Llanelli.

Head coach Carl Darlington admitted the result was "a wake-up call" as the Oswestry men prepare for another outing against a side fighting for their league lives.

And, again playing in front of the live TV cameras, he knows that the visitors need to quickly get back to winning ways to avoid falling further adrift at the summit.

"There are no easy games against the bottom sides and last week's draw at Aberystwyth was a wake-up call," he said.

"We knew what to expect as games against the teams near the bottom can be some of the hardest.

"We prepared well and the spirit was good, but maybe one or two players took them for granted.

Chances

"No game in this league is a gimme, particularly with teams fighting for their lives at the bottom. Aber have got some good players and shouldn't be where they are in the table.

"Having said that, we had chances, we had two one-on-ones in the first 10 minutes while we had a great chance to win it at the end.

"But Aber battled hard, they also had chances and overall a draw was probably a fair result

"We've now got games coming up against two other sides at the bottom, Carmarthen and Newtown, who are both sides we need to be beating. We need to learn from last week."

Front men Matty Williams, Chris Williams and Nicky Ward, who all missed last weekend's action, were facing checks on injuries.

Carmarthen, parted company with manager Tomi Morgan – the former Llansantffraid favourite – a couple of weeks ago, and are desperate for points as they attempt to climb off the foot of the table.

With former favourite Neil Smothers having returned to the club's managerial team, they will no doubt be fired up on their own Richmond Park ground which is certain to be saturated following this week's heavy rain.

Saints closing in

THE New Saints hope to announce the identity of their new director football before Christmas.

After sifting through over 50 applications, club bosses will now invite a shortlist for interview before making their decision next week.

"We're looking to invite people in for interview this week, and plan to make an announcement before Christmas," said general manager Ian Williams.

Although the announcement is set to be made next week, it may be that the successful applicant will not start the post until the New Year, depending on other work commitments.

The job was advertised after Mike Davies stepped down as director of football three weeks ago, and has attracted plenty of interest from candidates from various footballing backgrounds.

Head coach Carl Darlington and player coach Scott Ruscot are currently running first team affairs.

Oswestry out to stay on top

HAVING stormed to the summit, Oswestry would dearly love to remain top of the tree for Christmas.

The Eagles flew to pole position in rugby's South Lancs/Cheshire Two thanks to a 29-10 victory over Southport that extended their winning streak to eight games.

Two tries from No 8 Tom Thorpe and further touchdowns from Rob Massam, Jim Dilks and Ivor Hughes completed the success that also earned a bonus point.

Oswestry are now top on points difference from Crewe and Nantwich but have played two games fewer. Isle of Man side Douglas, who themselves lost last Saturday, are third, two points behind.

And the Eagles will now hope to finish the year on a high with a ninth straight win when they visit sixth placed Sefton in a potentially tricky trip on Saturday.

Club chairman Steve Charmley said: "Being top of the league is not something we had expected at the start of the season, but we'll settle for that at Christmas

"Our forwards have destroyed every pack put in front of them this season, and with the backs scoring tries for fun, it comes as no surprise.

"It was an excellent result in testing conditions last Saturday. The forwards dominated their opponents once again, and the backs did the damage by scoring the tries."

He added: "One thing we didn't have last season was consistency, and we've now got a settled team which makes a big difference.

"We're playing as a team and have definitely learned the lessons from last season.

"Sefton will be a difficult game for us, they are chasing our tails. But hopefully we can keep our run going to take into the Christmas break.

"They've got a heavy pitch and there is a chance the game may be off."

The club's second string are also going great guns, climbing up to third place in the University of Salford NWL League division four (south) with a 26-7 win at Whitchurch III.

They will hope for more of the same at home to Bowdon III on Saturday.

JONES RALLIES HIS DEFLATED TROOPS

BOSS Dave Jones has urged his Welshpool Town players to keep their heads up despite last Saturday's 8-0 drubbing at Four Crosses in the Spar Mid Wales League Cup.

The Lilywhites were swept aside by the second division title chasers, Paul Hughes leading the way with a hat-trick, on a day they will want to forget.

After arriving late, their cause was not helped by the early dismissal of keeper Gary Foster for a foul while substitute Ian Brailsford also saw red for pulling back a forward in the second period.

Four Crosses took full advantage to storm into the last 16, but Jones – whose next division one game is the Boxing Day clash at Waterloo Rovers – says his players must not dwell on the defeat.

"Four Crosses are a good side, better than a lot of the teams in the lower half of the Spar Mid Wales League and it was always going to be a difficult game, even with 11 players," he said.

"It was one of those days when nothing went right for us. We got there late, they scored with a fantastic free kick after five minutes and it just went from bad to worse.

"We've just got to put it down to one of those days, and not get too down about it. We need to pick ourselves up as we've got a big game against Waterloo Rovers on Boxing Day."

Tainted

Welshpool, who also lost Tom Gethin through injury, were forced to put defender Carl Phillips in goal after Foster's sending-off and found themselves 4-0 down at half time.

Mike Cockram hit the bar, while Ben Hendleman had a couple of chances, but for the most part it was backs to the wall for the Lilywhites.

The success continued for Crosses with a 5-1 win over Llanfair the following day in the Montgomeryshire Cup, Craig Hughes netting twice with Elliot Howes, Gaz Jones and Dwain Durham also finding the net.

However, their excellent weekend was tainted by the loss of key midfielder Andrew Webb to Berriew whose boss Mike Barton continues to shape his team.

Rovers woe as goal ace hurt

by John Bridgwater

WATERLOO Rovers have suffered a major setback with the loss of top scorer Steve Jones for six weeks with a cracked knee cap.

The striker, who has netted 11 times this season, picked up the injury in last Saturday's 2-0 Spar Mid Wales League Cup win at Bont, and will miss a busy spell for the club.

"January is going to be a tough month, so it's a massive blow to lose Steve," said boss Dale Roberts.

"There was a collision with another player, bone on bone, and he came off worse.

"At first it was feared it was his cruciate ligament which would have seen him miss the rest of the season, but fortunately that was not the case."

Jones, who is backing Steve Laws to take on the mantle up front, was happy enough to progress to the last 16 of the league cup in heavy conditions at Bont.

"The pitch was a real leveller, it shouldn't really have been played but they wanted it on," he said.

"To be fair, they came at us and gave it a good go."

Two goals from Will Pritchard saw Rovers through, the first a volley after five minutes before converting a second half penalty.

It was a youthful Rovers side with a number of rookies involved, with 16-year-old John Thomas making his debut when appearing as substitute.

Waterloo will now look to consolidate their top five spot in the Spar Mid Wales League division one when they head to Llansantffraid Village, weather permitting.

Lying fifth, Rovers are in range of a couple of sides above them while, by contrast, their hosts need points to climb away from the lower reaches of the table.

Rhyn clear Meole hurdle

Weston Rhyn's Jordan Gerrard reaches the ball first ahead of his Meole Brace opponents Ryan Sparey (left), and Liam Maher in his side's victory. See page 42.
Picture: Iain Thomson

Pool seek Bangor victory

WELSHPOOL'S rugby players bid to ensure they stay well clear of the bottom three of the Welsh League division three (north) when they welcome struggling Bangor on Saturday.

The Maesydre side, who are fourth from bottom with three wins to date, should profit against a side who have picked up just one point from nine games.

"Being a big place, it's surprising that Bangor are not doing better," said Pool coach Frank Jones.

"This is a game we're looking to win and finish the year on a high. We can give anybody a game at home but on the road we are weaker with two or three key players missing through work commitments.

"But a lot of the youths have stepped up this season and made an impression which is good for the future of the club."

After Saturday's action, Welshpool take a break over the Christmas and New Year before resuming hostilities on January, 7. Despite losing their last couple of outings, the Maesydre side can take positives from aspects of their performances.

Depleted Saints in late goal sickener

TNS LADIES remain rooted to the bottom of the Midland Women's Combination League after suffering their third consecutive defeat with this 1-0 defeat by Leafieid Athletic Ladies at Park Hall, ***writes DAVID FIGG.***

However, it was really hard on the injury depleted hosts who were only able to field nine players but put up some stubborn resistance and defended resolutety to match their Birmingham area visitors.

The first chance of note come TNS' way in the sixth minute when Emily Ridge lobbed just side while at the other end in the 20th minute, Samantha White's shot was superbly tipped past her left hand post by TNS keeper Isabelle Foster.

The hosts went close to taking the lead in the 36th minute when Sophie Davies was denied by Whatley.

A great chance came the visitors' way two minutes later when Jessica Lippiatt's through ball found Phillipowski in the box who rounded Foster but somehow shot wide.

The hosts' stubborn resistance, however, was finally broken in the 77th minute in the most cruel of ways.

Skipper Rachel Smith picked up a loose ball 25 yards out and her speculative right foot shot looked to have been saved at head height by Foster but the ball somehow slipped through the keeper's fingers and into the net.

It was the only blot on what was an otherwise spirited team performance by the Saints.

Parker nets Midland call

ELLESMERE College's centre Ted Parker has been invited to attend development days for the Midlands under-16s squad at Leicester Grammar School next month.

The days, on January 7 and 8, form the next stage in the selection process ahead of the final Midlands trial on January 28.

Parker secured his place by impressing in the recent three-match programme of inter-county matches in which North Midlands beat Notts, Lincs & Derbyshire but were beaten by Staffordshire and East Midlands.

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